

Cairo calls for quick Israeli pullout

CAIRO (R) — Egypt Tuesday reiterated its need to reach agreement on an early withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. The spokesman said this view was conveyed by Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali to the Israeli Ambassador in Cairo Moshe Sasson. Mr. Ali also stressed to Mr. Sasson that any pull-out agreement should safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, the spokesman added. He said the minister had also expressed Cairo's concern over developments in southern Lebanon, where Palestinian refugee camps were recently attacked.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية غير حزبية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Habib briefs Shamir

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — U.S. special envoy Philip Habib, who is striving to arrange a withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, reported to Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir Tuesday on his talks with Lebanese leaders. The foreign minister asked Mr. Habib "quite forcefully" whether Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) intended to remove their forces from Lebanon, Israeli sources told reporters. The U.S. envoy replied that Lebanese leaders informed him they had a commitment from Syria to withdraw its troops, the sources said. He also undertook to check on the condition of Israeli troops captured by the PLO and soldiers missing but believed to be in Syrian custody.

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King to visit Romania, Yugoslavia

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Court said Tuesday that His Majesty King Hussein will visit Romania and Yugoslavia beginning Feb. 17 in response to invitations from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Yugoslav President Peter Stambolic. A delegation of high-ranking officials will accompany the King on the two visits.

S. Arabia, Bahrain discuss Mideast

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia discussed the Middle East situation in Riyadh Tuesday with Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa, the Saudi Press Agency said. Sheikh Khalifa brought a message from Bahrain's ruler, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, on bilateral cooperation, it added.

Peking renews support of Palestinians

PEKING (R) — Chinese Premier Zhao Ziyang has expressed firm support for the Palestinian cause in a message of congratulations to the Palestine National Council which is meeting in Algiers. Mr. Zhao said in a message published Tuesday by the New China News Agency: "The Chinese government and people will, as always, firmly support the Palestinian people in their just struggle for the restoration of rights, and continue to work for a fair and just settlement of the Palestinian question."

Mubarak to visit Far East

TOKYO (R) — Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak will make an official visit to Japan early in April, the Foreign Ministry said Tuesday. Ministry sources said Mr. Mubarak will spend five days in Japan starting from about April 5 as part of an Asian tour which will also take him to China and North Korea.

Israel says 3 Palestinian commandos killed near Beirut

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli soldiers killed three Palestinian commandos who attacked an Israeli road block near Beirut Tuesday, an army spokesman said. The Palestinians had fired with light weapons at soldiers manning the position at Monte Verde, three kilometres east of the city, but there were no Israeli casualties, he said.

Somali rebels reject amnesty offer

NAIROBI (R) — Guerrilla groups committed to the overthrow of Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre have rejected his offer of amnesty and pledged to go on fighting, a rebel spokesman said. Radio Haigai, propaganda arm of the rebel groups, quoted the spokesman as saying the guerrillas would never lay down their arms until they recovered "their democratic rights." President Barre announced the measure at the weekend to a huge rally at Hargeisa, northern Somalia, scene of unrest after a jail-break last month, which rebels claim to have engineered.

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Fahoum re-elected Palestine National Council speaker

ALGIERS (Agencies) — The 16th session of the Palestine National Council (PNC), which opened here Monday, has re-elected Khaled Al Fahoum as its speaker for the next term by a majority of votes and was Tuesday expected to hear reports on the political developments in the Palestinian issue since 1981, when the council last met.

During its first session, which began Monday evening and continued until the early hours of Tuesday, the PNC agreed to allocate 36 seats for the eight constituent organisations of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), 21 seats for members of the Higher Military Council, and 18 seats for the Palestinian Women Union. The council resumed its meetings Tuesday to hear speeches by the heads of foreign delegations, which came from 90 countries to express support of the Palestinian issue, including a speech by Jordan's National Consultative Council (NCC) Speaker Suleiman Arar.

Italy lends Jordan \$20m in aid

ROME (J.T.) — The Italian minister of foreign affairs, Mr. Emilio Colombo, and the president of the National Planning Council (NPC), Dr. Hanna Odeh, Monday signed an inter-government agreement granting Jordan an aid loan of \$20 million. The minister of foreign affairs

Lebanese army spreads out in E. Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Thousands of Lebanese government troops Tuesday took over security duties in East Beirut from the rightist Christian militiamen who have ruled there since the civil war of 1975-76. The move, carried out under a new government decree giving the army sweeping powers to maintain law and order, symbolised the return of government authority to the whole of Beirut for the first time in eight years. The government had been able to recover control of west Beirut last September after Palestinian forces withdrew from there and their local Muslim militia allies were disbanded. Rightist sources said the army deployment was negotiated with the militiamen, who are now forbidden from moving around east Beirut in military vehicles, wearing uniform or carrying weapons. But the sources said the militia headquarters would remain where it is in the heart of east Beirut. There is also no suggestion that the army will move in and confiscate the militia weapons, although it has the power to do so. The sources said armed militiamen in uniform would be allowed to guard the headquarters. Uniformed gunmen were on as normal Tuesday morning there and at a militia centre close to what used to be the main front line with west Beirut. The sources said the rightist "Lebanese Forces" militia would retain control for the time being of part of Beirut port and of a municipal property registration office, taxes from which provide much of the militia's income. Radios and newspapers said three brigades of the Lebanese army numbering some 4,000 men moved in early Tuesday morning after the cabinet issued a decree giving the army widespread new powers. The cabinet, empowered by

Settlers warn Arabs against stoning vehicles

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army allowed a convoy of about 100 Israeli settlers to drive through an Arab village in the occupied West Bank Tuesday to protest at the death of an Israeli woman who was stoned by Arab youths. Esther Ohana, 22, who was hit on the head by a rock in Dahariya, southwest of Hebron, last month, died at the weekend. Aharon Domd, one of the settlers, told reporters the village had been under curfew when the settlers arrived Monday to protest at her death. "Early this morning the army let us in," he said. "We said prayers for the girl and then drove through, shouting our statement through loudspeakers to make sure it was absolutely clear."

Gold prices rise to highest in 2 years

LONDON (R) — Gold rose to its highest for nearly two years Tuesday as the dollar lost some of its recent strength and eased against all major currencies. At the London morning fix by bullion houses, gold was quoted at \$511.50 an ounce, nearly \$10 above Monday's close and its best level since April 9, 1981. The afternoon fixing price was slightly lower at \$509.25. The dollar weakened against

The PNC opened its sessions on Monday evening by a speech by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasser Arafat in which he said, "We are heading in the direction of a confederation with our people in Jordan, proceeding from our faith in the unity of goal and future and as an expression of our faith in full Arab unity."

Mr. Arafat said: "While we are holding the gun and brandishing it in the face of the enemy, we are advocates of peace. However, the peace we seek is a peace based on right and justice."

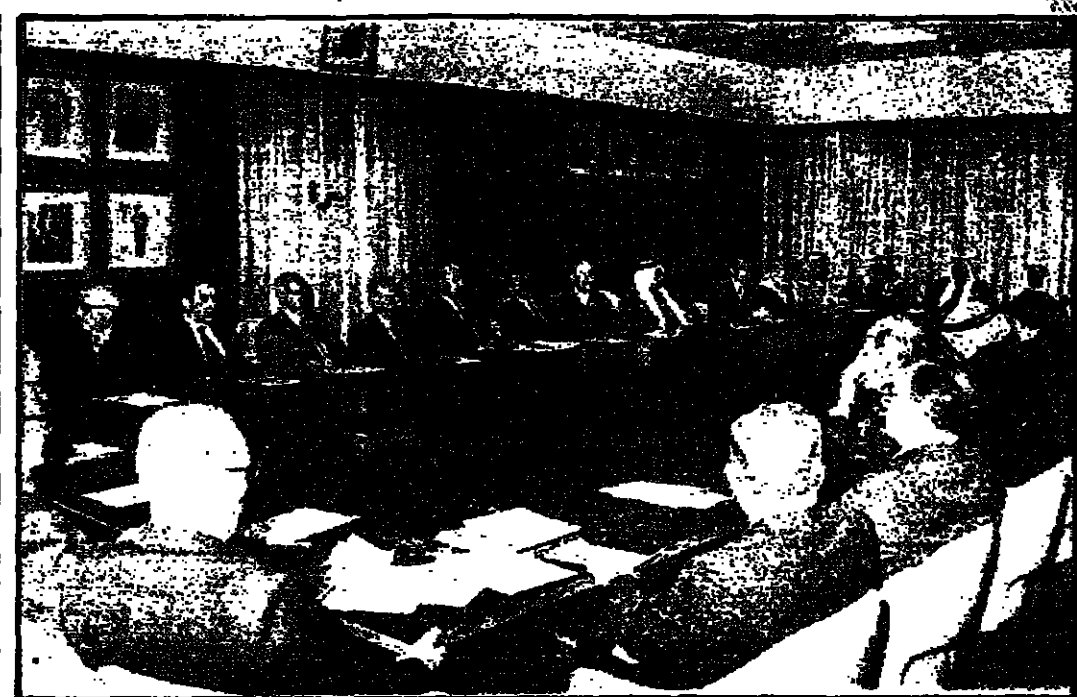
Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid also made a speech to the PNC urging the Palestinian revolution to "unify its ranks to cope with the difficult phase which the Palestinian issue and the area are passing through." He called for independent Palestinian decisions and appealed to the Arab World to tackle "fateful issues in a positive attitude and to take serious steps to end the Arab division."

In the framework of technical cooperation, Italy is starting new projects in Jordan for the value of approximately 14 billion Italian liras (\$12 million) in agricultural, professional training and energy sectors. Dr. Hanna Odeh started his visit to Italy on Sunday, Feb. 13.

parliament to govern by decree, authorised the army to confiscate weapons, search houses, supervise ports and ships, regulate the movement of foreigners in and out of Lebanon and ban public meetings in areas specified by the government.

Official sources said a further order gave the army authority to operate under the decree in the area of "Greater Beirut", the capital and its sprawling suburbs. President Amin Gemayel, wearing army uniform, went to the three brigades' temporary camp near Beirut airport during the night to give the order to deploy in east Beirut.

The president, whose family's Falangist Party dominates the rightist militia, told the troops: "We want to succeed in unifying the capital. We want to succeed in unifying the hearts of the Lebanese." By mid-morning the government troops had set up sandbagged checkpoints



The newly-appointed, 30-member Upper House of Parliament holds its first session Tuesday (Petra photo)

Yaqub-Khan: Reagan proposal should reconcile with Palestinian aspirations

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A lasting peace settlement in the Middle East should directly address the Palestinian problem, and the Reagan initiative should reconcile with the Arab peace plan adopted at the Fez summit, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan said here Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters at a press conference held in the Pakistani embassy, Mr. Yaqub-Khan said that "there can be no durable Middle East peace settlement which does not resolve the root cause of the problem, namely the restoration of the inalienable rights of our Palestinian brethren."

The Pakistani foreign minister, who left for Iraq Tuesday after two days of talks in Jordan, is expected to come back to Amman on Thursday to continue his four-day visit.

His talks in Amman with His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, centred on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Middle East. Mr. Yaqub-Khan said.

At the press conference, Mr. Yaqub-Khan reiterated Pakistan's support for the Arab peace plan adopted by consensus at the Fez Arab summit.

The Pakistani foreign minister, a retired army officer, stressed that although the Reagan initiative, announced last September, contains some positive

elements "it does not go far enough," apparently referring to its failure to satisfy the Arab demand for an independent Palestinian state.

"But to the extent that it (the Reagan initiative) makes some beginning, it is to be encouraged," he said. He expressed hope that the Reagan initiative can be brought much closer to the Arab position.

"Although the American initiative falls short of satisfying the aspirations of the Arab World, it should be welcomed to the extent that it reflects a modification in American policy," he said.

The 62-year-old minister, who has served as Pakistani ambassador to the United States, the Soviet Union and France, said that the Islamic World's position is "totally identical" to the position and objectives of the Arab World.

Mr. Yaqub-Khan, who visited Washington recently as the foreign minister of his country, said that during his visit he stressed that the U.S. should recognise the rights and aspirations of the Palestinians.

"No nuclear weapons" The Pakistani minister refused reports that Pakistan has plans to develop nuclear weapons and said: "We try to make clear that ours is a peaceful plan and therefore, there should not be any reference to Pakistan going in for nuclear weaponry."

Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, he said "indirect

negotiations" between Islamabad and the Kabul government of President Babrak Karmal, which Pakistan does not recognise, "have made substantial progress."

"We consider that the central issue to the Afghan problem is a withdrawal of Soviet troops," he said. Mr. Yaqub-Khan pointed out that there are about three million Afghan refugees in Pakistan and "appropriate conditions" should be created for their return to their country.

The Soviet Union, which maintains a large military presence in Afghanistan, has expressed willingness to withdraw its troops, Mr. Yaqub-Khan said.

Such a withdrawal, along with guarantees from the Soviet side not to intervene again, are essential prerequisites for a solution to the Afghan problem, Mr. Yaqub-Khan said.

Asked whether Islamabad would recognise the government of President Karmal in the event of a Soviet withdrawal, Mr. Yaqub-Khan said: "We are willing to recognise any government which is accepted by the Afghan people."

The Pakistani minister asserted that the martial law in force in his country would be lifted "when the time right."

He added that the Pakistani military ruler, Gen. Zia Ul-Haq will announce on August 14, the country's Independence Day, "certain ideas for guidelines along which a future political set up will be based."

Upper House of Parliament holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The newly-appointed, 30-member Upper House of Parliament Tuesday held its first meeting. Speaker Ahmad Tarawneh presided over the opening session.

The house's secretary general read the royal decree forming the house as well as the royal decree appointing Mr. Tarawneh as speaker. The speaker and members were then sworn in according to Article 80 of the constitution. The house then elected its permanent committee which usually consists of the speaker, two deputy speakers and two assistant speakers. The house elected the committee as follows: Mr. Abdul Rahman Khalifah as first deputy speaker, Mr. Akram Zu'aytar as second deputy speaker, Mr. Baha'uddin Touqan as first assistant to the speaker, and Dr. Hazem Nuseibeh as second assistant to the speaker.

Meeting with Qasem

Earlier Tuesday Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who received Mr. Yaqub-Khan, said that Israel wanted to abort all efforts to bring about a lasting, just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said.

Mr. Qasem told Mr. Yaqub-Khan that Israeli occupation authorities were making haste to annex the occupied territories after emptying them of their inhabitants, Petra added.

He also briefed Mr. Yaqub-Khan on Jordan's efforts to coordinate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and hoped that deliberations at the Algiers meeting of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, would help Jordan's efforts "to liberate the land and prevent settlements." Petra said.

The visiting minister praised Jordan's efforts to solve the Middle East conflict and expressed Pakistan's support for such moves. Petra added.

Cheysson says Syria ready to withdraw when Israel is

DAMASCUS (R) — French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson said Tuesday he had ascertained Syria's readiness to withdraw from Lebanon when Israeli forces were pulled back.

Mr. Cheysson was speaking at a news conference after a two-hour meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad which he described as frank and direct. "I have ascertained Syria's preparedness to withdraw when the Israeli forces are pulled back," he said.

"We are not seeking partial withdrawal from Lebanese territory but seeking to have Lebanese authority restored over all parts of Lebanon within the recognised international border."

President Assad was quoted by the official Syrian news agency SANA as telling Mr. Cheysson the

Secrecy surrounds arrest of Soviet, Italian in Rome

ROME (R) — A Soviet airline official and an Italian microfilm expert were under heavy guard here Tuesday after being caught, according to police, with "highly important strategic material."

Secrecy surrounded the arrests Monday of Victor Pronin, 46-year-old deputy commercial director in Rome for the Soviet state airline Aeroflot, and Azeiglo Negrino, 33, an Italian businessman dealing in microfilms.

But sources close to the inquiry said that when a special paramilitary police squad arrested both men in central Rome Monday, Mr. Negrino was handing microfilm to the Soviet official.

A Carabinieri paramilitary police statement said only that the Italian was arrested while committing an act of politico-military

espionage. His firm, based in the northern port of Genoa, handles microfilming work for dozens of leading Italian companies.

Soviet embassy and Aeroflot officials were not available for comment. The Italian Interior Ministry confirmed the arrest of Mr. Pronin but would give no further details.

Police sources said the arrests followed a year of painstaking inquiries by Italy's secret services. Mr. Pronin was being detained while questioning continued.

Sergei Antonov, Rome station manager for the Bulgarian state airline Balkan Air, has been detained since last November on suspicion of plotting with the Turkish gunman who shot and wounded Pope John Paul in May 1981.

Italy accepts French proposal for W.Mediterranean summit

PARIS (R) — Italian Prime Minister Amintore Fanfani Tuesday accepted a French proposal for a summit conference of Western Mediterranean states that would concentrate on problems raised by enlargement of the European community.

President Francois Mitterrand of France, concerned by the repercussions for Southern Europe of entry by Spain and Portugal into the community, proposed the idea of a Mediterranean littoral summit while on a visit to Morocco last

month. Speaking at a press conference after a two-day meeting with Mr. Mitterrand devoted to strengthening Franco-Italian ties, Mr. Fanfani said his government was favourable to the proposal.

Mr. Mitterrand, answering questions, said France was still sounding out North African and European countries over the meeting which would probably not take place until after the next Western economic summit in late May. French officials said it had not yet

been decided which countries should attend.

Mr. Mitterrand said the meeting would tackle issues raised by community enlargement for European countries as well as for Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, already linked to Southern Europe through trade and labour accords.

France is in the forefront of community members concerned about the effects of Spanish entry under present rules covering Southern European farm produce. Mr. Mitterrand argues that wit-

hout major reform of the rules Spanish entry would lead to disaster for French farmers who would find themselves undercut by cheap Spanish products.

Since taking office in 1981 the Socialist president has cultivated France's links with its southern neighbours Spain, Italy and Portugal, arguing they had been too long neglected by the concentration of previous administrations on ties with West Germany and other northern countries.

FEATURES

Irish People is not an agent of IRA'

By Hugh Bracken
Reuter

NEW YORK — A small weekly newspaper published from a dimly-lit office in Manhattan has entered its seventh year of legal battle with the U.S. government because of alleged links with the Irish Republican Army (IRA). The government says the 10,000-circulation paper, the Irish People, is an agent of the IRA, outlawed in Britain and Ireland, and should register as such under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA).

But the paper's editor, Martin Galvin, said: "to force us to register would be to force us to commit an act of perjury. We are not agents of the IRA."

Mr. Galvin maintains the newspaper is being victimised because of pressure from Britain, whose rule in Northern Ireland the IRA is fighting to end.

The case against the Irish People arose from a probe by the U.S. authorities into the Irish Northern Aid Committee (Noraid). The Justice Department has said that Noraid is the main U.S. source of funds for the IRA, but this has never been proved in court and Noraid denies it.

The Irish People shares its office with Noraid, and the walls are plastered with pro-IRA posters. Mr. Galvin, as well as being the newspaper's editor, is chief spokesman for Noraid.

Washington wants the paper to register under FARA and make disclosures on who runs it and who finances it, items required by the act.

The court action has forced the government to reveal thousands

of pages of documents about its investigation of Noraid, including information on how that probe was started at the request of the British government.

The government charged that the Irish People was controlled and partly funded by Noraid and that the paper supported Noraid and the IRA.

The newspaper then sought the help of the American Civil Liberties Union to defend it, saying that the government was threatening its freedom of speech.

One court upheld the paper's contention, but the U.S. Court of Appeals on July 2, 1982 reversed the decision and said the paper must register under FARA.

The Appeals Court said FARA was "inspired by national security, international political and foreign policy considerations" and was today employed "for disclosing links with international terrorists."

The paper then asked for leave to appeal and the case has been brought to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court has not yet determined whether it will hear the appeal. If it does not, the Appeals Court decision would stand.

Mr. Galvin says the Appeals Court decision is a threat to U.S. democracy. "Not much is said about the activities of other ethnic groups, nothing for instance about the purchase of Israeli bonds," he said.

"The only group the government has moved against is the Irish. It is because of British pressure," Mr. Galvin added.

The paper has stressed in editorials that though it is not encouraging its readers to break laws, it would like them to have the right attitude towards those who do so for the cause of Irish unity.

Sweden may impose tougher rape laws

By Annika Doos
Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — Sweden has proposed legalising incest between consenting adults while imposing tougher measures against rapists.

A six-member government committee, set up in 1977 to revise existing laws on sexual offences, said in its just-released report that its main goal was "to intensify the reaction of society" to rape.

At the same time, it said it wanted Swedish law to stop interfering "in voluntary sexual intercourse between adults, even if the parties are related to one another."

The committee also proposed tougher laws to protect children from incest and sexual assault and harsher punishment against pimps and madams, persons who live off the profits of prostitution.

The proposed law decriminalises incest between persons over 18 years old.

"We in the committee asked ourselves: If for instance two siblings who have grown up in different homes decide to live together as adults, how terrible is that?" supreme court judge referee Ingrid Almdahl, the committee's secretary, told the Associated Press. "We don't feel that society should forbid them to do this."

The committee acknowledges that the risk of genetic damage theoretically is greater among offspring of relations between siblings or parents and children than among others.

It contends, however, the risk is relatively small and "has not been proven empirically." It says the risk is far greater that a woman over 40 will bear a deformed child, and that no one would suggest making it a criminal offence for

women above 40 to bear children.

The Christian and Social Council of the opposition Liberal Party has protested the proposal to legalise incest. "Sweden should not abolish a law that exists in every known civilised society," the council said in a statement, adding that incest is "considered unnatural by most people."

But other theological spokesmen have been supportive. "As long as there are sufficient guarantees that all parties will be protected against exploitation, I have no objections," said Ragnar Holte, professor of ethics at the Uppsala University Institute of Theology.

To make it easier to convict rapists, the committee suggests changing the law so that a victim's behaviour prior to a rape would have no bearing in court.

That means a suspected rapist would be unable to justify his act and his relationship with the vic-

tim would make no difference. Under existing law, a rape charge may be downgraded to sexual violation if the victim is judged to have encouraged the attacker.

Advocates of women's rights consider the proposal an important victory. Criminologist Leif G.W. Persson, a researcher on sexual offences consulted by the committee, said it was "strongly influenced by women's criticism of present laws."

Statistics for 1979 show there were 922 reported cases of rape in Sweden but only 94 convictions. Experts believe the number of unreported rapes is much higher, because many women are reluctant to go to the police.

Ms. Almdahl said the Riksdag, Sweden's parliament, will debate the proposals in its fall session, and if it approves they should take effect by the end of the year.

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HOME NEWS

Islamic council meets at U. of J.

AMMAN (Petra) — The council of the Islamic Cultural Centre held its first meeting at the University of Jordan Tuesday to discuss ways in which it could contribute to consolidating the Islamic faith, values and ethics. The conferees also discussed ways of promoting Islamic awareness thus enabling university students to develop their talents and skills, while encouraging a high standard of their research.

The meeting was chaired by University President Abdul Salam Al Majali, who explained the aims of the centre, namely to achieve interaction between the university and the Jordanian community. Dr. Majali pointed out that the university mosque and the Sharia College have an important role to play in this regard.

The Islamic Cultural Centre at the university was established late last year. Its goal is to hold seminars and conferences to expound Islamic culture and civilisation, and to set up a specialised Islamic library to help students research into Islamic based subjects. It is also hoped to establish an Islamic museum containing different Koranic and Islamic manuscripts and documents.



GERMAN MINISTER IN AMMAN — West German Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jürgen Moellmann (centre) is received by Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry Walid

Tash (right) and West German Ambassador to Jordan Hermann Münz upon Mr. Moellmann's arrival at Amman Airport Tuesday (Petra photo)

Agriculture seminar focuses on fertiliser

AMMAN (Petra) — The seminar on agricultural credit facilities and the pricing policies of fertilisers in the Arab World continued its sessions at the Amman Chamber of Industry Tuesday.

Several working papers by Arab delegates were presented and discussed.

They dealt with credit facilities and pricing policies in a number of Arab countries. The working papers were unanimous that increased use of fertilisers in agriculture would increase crop yields. They also stressed the importance of providing fertilisers to

farmers at reasonable prices.

The papers also discussed the state subsidies for fertilisers aimed at both achieving this goal and encouraging agricultural co-operatives to play a more effective role in boosting agriculture.

Rabies committee meets at Ministry of Health

AMMAN (Petra) — The ministerial committee responsible for studying the rabies problem met Tuesday at the Health Ministry. The meeting was attended by the Health Minister, the Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, the Under-Secretaries of the Ministries of Health and Interior, and a representative of the Amman Municipality.

Health Minister Zuhair Malhas explained that the seriousness of

the problem rests in the fact that people bitten by stray dogs and not treated immediately could die. He said the Health Ministry has created a special unit for diagnosing rabies and is conducting a survey in cooperation with the World Health Organisation (WHO) to detect infected dogs and destroy them. The Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment said the ministry will appoint a trained person in every municipality to kill stray dogs.

Medical stats published

AMMAN (Petra) — A statistical bulletin issued by the Health Ministry reveals that out of Jordan's 2,696 physicians 757 of them in the past year were employed by the ministry and the rest worked for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) or in the private sector.

The bulletin said that the country had 532 dentists in 1982 of whom 84 were employed by the Ministry of Health. As to pharmacists, they numbered 755, 32 of whom were employed by the ministry, and 946 male and female nurses of whom 284 worked at the ministry's different hospitals and medical centres. As to midwives there were 266 in 1982 of whom 171 worked for the ministry, the bulletin said.

Measurement standardisation seminar concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — A training course on measurement standardisation was concluded at the Arab Organisation for Standardisation and Metrology (AOSM) Tuesday. Eighteen participants representing 18 Arab countries participated in the course.

The course's programme, which continued for three days, included lectures by specialists as well as technical teaching in computing methods for processing, storing and retrieving information.

The programme also included field trips to several scientific institutions and information centres, including the Royal Scientific Society (RSS).

AOSM Secretary-General Zafer Al-Sawwaf, in the seminar's concluding speech, called on the participants to apply the experience gained from the seminar in their own countries.

Dr. Sawwaf then distributed certificates to the participants.

Exports rise by 53%

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's industrial exports in the first half of 1982 totalled JD 104,532,000 compared to JD 68,593,000 for the same period in the year before; an increase of 53 per cent.

Officials at the Amman Chamber of Industry said the exports included foodstuffs, alcoholic drinks, tobacco, phosphates, chemical materials and other items exported to the countries of the European Economic Community (EEC). Iraq ranked first among importers of Jordanian products taking goods to the value of JD 41.3 million. Jordan exported goods worth JD 23 million to other Arab countries.

It also exported to the EEC goods valued at JD 1.7 million, and to the socialist countries goods worth JD 12.2 million. As for Asian countries, the figures for which include Turkey, the price of Jordan's exports totalled JD 12.6 million.

AESC talks set for Feb. 24

TUNIS (Petra) — Jordan will participate in the ministerial meetings of the 34th session of the Arab Economic and Social Council (AESC) which will begin in Tunis on Feb. 24.

During the two-day session, the ministers will discuss working papers and memoranda submitted by the Arab League General Secretariat on joint Arab projects, and the role of the specialised Arab organisation in implementing these projects. The ministers will also discuss the financing of social projects and the creation of an emergency fund to be attached to the Arab League General Secretariat.

The session will be preceded by a meeting of government delegates on Feb. 22 and 23 at the Arab League headquarters to decide upon the AESC agenda. Industry and Trade Minister Walid Asfour will represent Jordan at these meetings.

Rain shortages tackled in Nabulsi speech

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Jordanian Cooperative Organisation (JCO) Hassan Al Nabulsi delivered a lecture Tuesday at the University of Jordan School of Agriculture on the priorities of agricultural research in areas irrigated by rainfall.

Mr. Nabulsi spoke about the criteria for drawing up priorities in the rainfall areas which constitute six per cent of the country's entire area. He also explained the agricultural problems involved and outlined possible solutions, such as the use of improved high yield seeds and fertilisers.

Dairy plant survey comes to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Union of Foodstuff Industries (AUI) is currently making an integrated study on the condition of dairy processing plants in the Arab World. As a result it hopes to tackle the technical, economic and technological aspects which

obstruct progress in this industry. The Amman Chamber of Industry has addressed a memorandum to these dairy factories in Jordan together with a questionnaire prepared by the AUI general secretariat to be filled and returned by plant managers.

Precision and imagination characterise painting exhibition of Yugoslav artists at Haya Centre

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The drawings from Serbia, Yugoslavia now on show at the Jordan Artists Association gallery, Jabal Weibdeh, is an exceptional display for many reasons. First, the quality of the work, which is the key to the whole exhibition is consistently high. These are not superficial, quickly made pieces, devoid of meaning. No, all 35 drawings, each by a different artist from the Academy of Fine Arts in Belgrade, have been carefully, often intricately crafted. Their fine lines conveying the different textures and ideas so well that the drawings you gravitate towards (you cannot take in all the works equally at once so you tend to head towards the ones which reinforce your own philosophies and aspirations) the ones that absorb you most. Second, perhaps due to the fact that the work has been produced in recent years and predominantly in 1982, some of the pieces are stimulatingly new. Third, as opportunities to see Yugoslavian works are rare, the exhibition provides a chance to see at first hand some of the art work being produced in Yugoslavia today.

Throughout the history of modern painting in Yugoslavia, realism seems to have been the dominant mode of expression, characterising the Belgrade school of as early as 1925. Carrying on this tradition are Radovan Kragulj and Emir Dragulo whose drawings in pencil are exercise in neat precision. They are however much more than that. Kragulj's rabbit hutch, while certainly conveying beautifully the sense of the raw knotted wood of the box, is much more importantly a study of the effects of light—how one tone can appear lighter and darker by simple juxtaposition to other tones—and of the way the pieces of wood and their shadows form geometrical patterns that weave and intertwine on a two dimensional plane.

Dragulo, on the other hand, is more concerned with the way material changes affect everyday objects. By hiding familiar shapes under the soft folds of fabric he imbues them with a mystery and an ethereal strangeness which he firmly anchors to this world and age with electric cables. His objects, lined up separately, inviolate and lonely against the wall, like suspects in an identity parade, break traditional compositional formulas. Yet, while one can view

the objects individually, one is aware that they are bound to the others, their linear arrangement broken and therefore unified by the triangle of the stepladder.

Linked to the work of these two artists by its apparent realism is Velizar Krstic's huge "Fly on the Wall." It is however the word apparent that is pertinent here, for, as one inspects the fearsome creature closely, it becomes a thing of beauty, a series of different textures and shapes rather than a mere drawing of an unpleasant insect. Krstic manages to convey the brittle transparency of its wings and the dark mass of its round body, and with an almost Chinese like application of the brush he catches in one smooth confident stroke the softly swelling joints of its tapering legs.

Bridging the gap between realism and the more abstract pieces must be Safet Zec's wonderful drawing of "Windows". Scattered randomly across the large piece of paper are windows—some drawn in immaculate detail noting the contrast between the inhabited (their sills adorned with well tended plants and curtains) and the abandoned (panes patched up with old newspapers). Some are mere outlines, others architect's sketches with figures and arrows indicating lengths, thicknesses and diameters. Although their arrangement appears arbitrary, taken as a whole they form a rich diverse pattern.

Using the same scattered compositional formula in his unique landscape is Milan Stasevic. What appears to be a series of black dots marking the white paper crystallise on closer inspection into first squiggly patches of rough grass and then into tiny birds, donkeys, sheep and goats. Its playful childlike simplicity and its sense of fun make this picture a delight.

The same slightly sly, humorous air hovers over Dragan Jovanovic's "Portrait". The robust torso facing squarely out of the picture reminds one of the heavy portraits of Henry VIII, but the expression—one of cunning knowingness—caught in a few

Pilot graduates receive wings from Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the armed forces, a new batch of the Royal Jordanian Air Force pilots Tuesday graduated at the Hussein Air Force College.

At the beginning of the ceremony, the commandant of the college made a speech saying the new batch completed their scheduled military and educational programmes up to the same standard as their practical training in the aircraft. Indeed they achieved good results in a short period of time, he said.

King Hussein bestowed upon the pilots their wings and made awards to those graduates who had excelled. The graduation ceremony was attended by the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and a number of high-ranking officers.

Bahraini education team shown around Princess Alia Community College

AMMAN (Petra) — The Bahraini educational delegation, currently visiting Jordan, visited Tuesday the Princess Alia Community College and listened to a speech from the director of the college on its teaching programmes and its role in serving the local community.

A delegation representing the nursery schools in Bahrain visited the college's nursery to acquaint itself with the running of the nursery and its methods of child care.

The Bahraini delegation arrived in Amman last Wednesday in order to study a number of Jordanian educational institutes.



Krstic Velizar's "Fly on the Wall". One of the thirty-five drawings from Serbia showing at the Haya Arts Centre until Feb. 26 (Photo Jordan Times)

hazy lines make it a thoroughly modern piece. It is however the coat, with its open gridded design which passes with no regard over the contours of its wearer, that is by far the most important aspect of the drawing. Set against the brick red background, its exceptionally pleasing effect catches and absorbs the viewers attention entirely.

Classical origins are again apparent in Olja Ivanjicki's "A Lady with Ermin Fur". The serene madonna-like gaze, the regal tilt of the head, the fine almost chiselled features mark this woman of nobles stock from the time of the Renaissance, while the bold colours and strong abstract designs which swirl around her body say otherwise. But the triumph of this work are the echoing sinewy lines that flow unfalteringly.

Lastly, fine textural effects have been achieved by the artists Zivko Djak and Radenko Micevic but by different means. Micevic's still life sets the whirling concentric rings of a shell and the more wobbly contours of withered pomegranates against a background gridded so finely as to resemble a woven fabric. Djak obtains the same woven feel by molding the paper itself, and then he adds movement and dynamism with a few economic pencil lines. The result—a pleasingly clean simplicity.

The exhibition runs until Feb. 26.



"Metamorphosis". A drawing by Cveticovic Aleksandar, one of the 35 studies from Yugoslavia currently on show at the Haya Art Gallery in Amman (Photo Jordan Times)

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You tell 'em, Elias

BETHLEHEM Mayor Elias Freij has correctly pointed out the difference between the strength of American words and the strength of Israeli bulldozers in the occupied Arab territories. He pointed out in a press interview earlier this week that American politicians make clumsy speeches while American money allows Israel to build more settlements and gradually annex the West Bank and Gaza. We are not always as polite or as gracious as Mr. Freij. In our eyes, the American political leadership offers much more than clumsy speeches. It is providing the world with an example of irresponsibility and shameless hypocrisy that is hard to parallel in the dirty, mercantile world of big-power politics. It is ironic that Mr. Freij himself points out the contradiction between American words and American deeds — for Mr. Freij is one of the few democratically elected Palestinian mayors in the occupied West Bank and Gaza who has not been expelled, shot at, bombed, dismissed or put under house arrest by the Israeli military occupation that is, in our eyes, the defendant war that lives by the fiscal magnanimity and the ethical favouritism of the United States political leadership. No wonder the Americans are anxious to promote "moderate" and reasonable people such as Mr. Freij: obviously, they understand well enough that it is American money and

American confusion that has allowed the Israelis systematically to wipe out the rest of the indigenous political leadership of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. The Americans understand very well that they have precious little time in which to continue their cruel fiction of asking a Palestinian leadership to step forward and negotiate peace while the only two genuine and legitimate strains of an authentic Palestinian leadership — the PLO and the elected mayors in the West Bank and Gaza — are ostracised from the peace-making process either because of American obstinacy in refusing to deal with the PLO or because unquestioning American support for Israel has allowed Israel to deport, terrorise, arrest, dismiss or arrest those Palestinian mayors who form the natural leadership in the occupied territories. Sounds like a cruel joke? It is, and a cruel joke that is sanctioned, financed, perpetuated and defended by the same American leadership that professes a suddenly urgent desire to bring peace to the Holy Land. There is too much contradiction here even for a prostrate Arab World to swallow. Mr. Freij is right to point out to the Americans their record of hollow and offensive rhetoric. One hopes someone in Washington listens. One probably hopes in vain, to judge by recent history.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: PNC ought to accept Reagan Plan

The Palestine National Council (PNC) began Monday its most important session yet directed at saving the occupied Arab territories and its residents. In this session it is crucial that the Arab peace plan, which remains the best plan suggested to date, be approved.

The PNC will also decide whether to accept or reject the Reagan Plan. Needless to say, the Arab peace plan is more acceptable than the Reagan initiative. It is true that Israel has challenged the initiative from the very moment it was announced, and has enhanced the construction of settlements in the occupied territories in an effort to prove to the Arabs that the U.S. administration is incapable of

implementing its initiative. Nevertheless, the U.S. administration says that it has not begun to play its role as it is still waiting for a Palestinian reply.

Thus the PNC will have to decide which initiative to accept. If it accepts the U.S. initiative, it will be to force the American administration to prove its credibility and confront the Israeli challenge, or to back down and show that it was not serious about the initiative all along. In either case should the PNC endorse the Reagan Plan, a new situation would be brought about, and in either case, no one could blame the Arabs for turning down the chance of peace.

Al Dustour: France and Soviet Union want to end Gulf war

The Iraqi-Iranian war has entered a critical phase after the new Iranian offensive. This latest round of fighting should prompt the international community to shoulder its responsibilities by acting quickly to put an end to this war.

In recent battles, well over 15,000 Iranians have been killed in addition to the many wounded. Furthermore, Iran is paying heavily in material losses as a result of the war. This illustrates the suffering being endured by the Iranian people simply because

of the stubbornness of its rulers.

The tragedy is that there exist foreign powers pouring oil on the fire as if the goal is to sacrifice every Arab and Muslim for the sake of their interests. With such a situation, we appreciate the French initiative and the statements made by the French external relations minister to the effect that France will continue its efforts to put an end to this war, because the continuation of war will only lead to more destruction.

Sawt Al Shaab: PNC disunity would be a gift to the enemy

It is important that the PNC, currently meeting in Algiers, protect the unity of the Palestinians regardless of the differences in opinion which might surface. Palestinian disunity would certainly be a weapon in the hands of those fighting against both peace and the future existence of the Palestinians. At one time, the Palestinians had no alternative

to military struggle, but with the failure of the military option, now it is the political struggle which is the only option left. If we take into consideration the time element, which sees every moment being utilised to eat away at Palestinian lands and to evict Palestinian residents from the occupied territories, the gravity of the PNC decision is obvious.

John Paul to visit Central America and the Caribbean

A trip very much in line with the Pope

By Tony Austin
Reader

VATICAN CITY — Pope John Paul's plan to visit eight countries in Central America and the Caribbean next month is seen in the Vatican as reflecting his heart felt mission to take the gospel in person to suffering peoples.

The 17th foreign trip of his pontificate will bring the pope into contact with governments ranging from Marxist Nicaragua to Haiti where President-for-Life Jean-Claude Duvalier rules.

The pontiff will receive red-carpet treatment wherever he goes in the strongly Catholic region "but some of the governments may not be so pleased when he has left," one Vatican official with first-hand knowledge of Central America said.

Pope John Paul is reminded daily of the political tightrope he has to walk during the eight-day visit starting on March 2. Opposition-in-exile groups from Guatemala and Haiti have already urged him to denounce the two governments and the Vatican is sifting through allegations of

human rights abuses in El Salvador during the country's five-year-old civil war, Vatican officials said.

"This trip is very much in line with his pontificate," the Vatican official said. "You can be sure he will make his views plain, but he knows better than anybody the right way to do it."

The national bishops conferences which invited the pope will be looking to him to encourage their pastoral activities despite the region's chronic political instability. He is considered certain to endorse the Holy See's firm opposition to direct involvement by churches in political efforts to promote greater social justice.

Nicaragua, where five priests hold senior office in the Sandinist government, is the most striking case in point. The Vatican insists that Miguel d'Escoto resign as foreign minister in Managua, seeing any political office, as incompatible with a priest's vow of exclusive obedience to the church.

Nicaragua has said it will treat the pontiff as a head of state on his one-day visit scheduled for March

4 and has proclaimed the day a national holiday.

Father d'Escoto is unlikely to attend either of the two main events, a mass in the main square of Managua or the papal visit to Leon. He was quoted as saying he had a previous engagement at a meeting of Non-aligned nations in New Delhi.

Pope John Paul has shown in the past he is too skilful a diplomat to offend his hosts by outspoken and public criticism. But Vatican officials said he would not leave the region without laying down the law for priests on the distinction between direct action and moral persuasion.

Intolerable level
The government of Costa Rica, his first destination, has announced plans to mark the occasion by liberating 200 prisoners who have less than six months of their sentences to serve. Local church officials say the pope will stay the first three nights in the Costa Rican capital of San Jose, making a one-day trip from there on March 3 to Panama.

His programme there includes a meeting with President Ricardo

de la Espriella, Brigadier-General Ruben Dario Paredes, commander-in-chief of the armed forces, and a mass in the metropolitan cathedral of Panama City.

The pope often speaks in his weekly public functions about the intolerable level of violence in Central America. In particular he has called for dialogue and an end to bloodshed in El Salvador and Guatemala, both in the throes of civil conflict between government security forces and guerrillas. The papal nuncio in San Salvador recently backed calls by local church leaders for face-to-face negotiations between the warring parties.

Archbishop Arturo Rivera y Damas, El Salvador's leading churchman, urged both sides last Sunday to mark the papal visit by declaring a ceasefire in the war which has killed an estimated 100,000 people over the past five years.

El Salvador with 1,485 cases and Guatemala with 1,334 feature high on a United Nations list of countries accused of failing to explain the disappearance of political

opponents. Honduras and Nicaragua also appear on the list.

Salvadoran President Alvaro Magana will be at the airport to greet the pontiff and his government has detailed 2,000 security agents to ensure the safety of the pope during his one-day visit.

In Panama the pope will speak with campesinos peasants, a social group he never tires of exhorting to stay on the land and avoid the temptation of modern cities. "In a wider sense he will want to reinforce the faith of millions of impoverished Catholics in the countries he visits," a Vatican official said.

The pope feels keenly the anguish of landless families, many of them caught in a trap of poverty and crushed between left and right-wing military factions, he added.

Controversy also surrounds the last stop of his tour, at Haiti where the pope will attend the general assembly of the Latin American bishops' conference.

A Miami-based opposition group urged him not to "enter into a pact with the devil" by meeting the Haitian president.

The biggest dealer on Kuwait's unofficial stock market claims that he is being made a scapegoat

The Kuwaiti who owes \$10.5 billion

By Alan Friedman
and Kathy Evans

KUWAIT — Kuwait's financial community is in turmoil. The collapse of the Souq Al Manakh (the country's unofficial stock market) has resulted in a \$94 billion mountain of post-dated cheques which were used in forward share dealings. It is a mountain which threatens not only Kuwait's financial community, but its social fabric as well.

Sixty people out of the 6,000 who played the Souq are now facing criminal proceedings and about 300 or more could be bankrupted if Kuwait's bankruptcy law is strictly enforced. The law is clear: Any individual who is declared bankrupt must immediately call in his debtors. If they cannot pay, they are also declared bankrupt. And so on.

A surprising number of Kuwaitis do not quite know how much they are worth, nor what their debtors and creditors are worth. The result is that even the government appears to be finding the task of untangling the mess a formidable challenge.

It doesn't help matters that several senior government officials are said to be involved in the post-dated cheque pyramid, as one put it, "up to their necks." The simple truth is that anyone, from taxi drivers to top bankers, could play the Souq.

Big returns

And why not? Although some of the dealings were illicit and the risks high, the market was producing returns of 20, 50, 100 and 150 per cent. Shares were bought

with forward cheques, some one year ahead, and sold for cash immediately. Deals were done from car telephones, from aircraft flying over the Gulf, in the lobby of the Kuwait Sheraton and elsewhere.

But when confidence evaporated last August and cheques were presented for payment prematurely, the house of cards tumbled, bringing down the market and nine of the biggest dealers, known locally as "The Magnificent Nine."

The biggest of these, the most "magnificent" of the magnificent, is Mr. Jassim Al-Mutawa, a former passport clerk who seems to be in the running for the title of the world's "largest-ever personal bankrupt." By his own account, he owes K.D. 3 billion (\$10.5 billion).

Mr. Al-Mutawa, "Jassim" to all of Kuwait, is one of those being prosecuted. And if Mr. Abdul Lateef Al Hamad, Kuwait's tough-talking Finance Minister, has his way, prison sentences will be doled out. "We will have people who have to be hurt," declared the finance minister.

So how does Mr. Al-Mutawa feel about the situation? In a rare interview late last month he said that he was convinced that he was the victim of rumours and that as a humble-born Kuwaiti, he was a likely scapegoat in a society where rank had traditionally been very important.

Nothing wrong

Jassim is well aware of his fame (or infamy, depending on your politics): "Jassim, Jassim, Jassim," they say. They all talk about me. I

know I have done nothing wrong. There are 6,000 other Jassim Al-Mutawas in Kuwait. If they want to put everybody in prison, let them."

Here is how Jassim analyses his financial position: "I started with KD 2.5 million (\$8.6 million) and that grew to a total of KD 5 million. It seems like a big amount, but there is some exaggeration. There are KD 3 billion against me (money he owes) and KD 2 billion for me (money he is owed). That leaves me only a KD 1 billion difference to pay and I have enough shares and land to cover it."

Unfortunately, some KD 575 million of this KD 1 billion (\$3.5 billion) Jassim is referring to is in Souq Al Manakh shares, and it is not clear that these will ever be worth the paper they are written on. Another problem is that he claims most of the balance is in property and the Kuwait market is not ripe for asset disposals just now.

Jassim reckons that despite its protestations to the contrary, the Kuwait government gave its approval to the Souq all along: "If the government did not approve of it, they would not have let it continue. People in the government were involved. The ministers phoned us every day for share prices. Of course this is official approval."

As for his own downfall, which coincided with that of the market last August, Jassim says he was used and attacked by *geera katila* — a "killing jealousy." "I am one of those young people who became something in a very short time," he explains.

Jassim maintains that the fatal loss of confidence in the Souq had

nothing to do with him. "In August a few of the big dealers in the Souq managed to discover my accounts in banks. With the help of bank employees they found out what I had, when I got cash and when I did not."

"Even in a big country, if they know your accounts you are finished in a day. They made rumours that Jassim has fallen. Jassim has fallen. They all ran to the banks to cash my cheques."

Credit market

These cheques carried premiums above the "spot price" of shares of the 40-odd companies (almost all offshore Gulf companies not incorporated in Kuwait). The premiums ranged from 10 and 20 per cent to 50, 100 and 150 per cent over the share prices. This meant that a dealer could buy shares forward with a post-dated cheque, say for one year, at a 100 per cent premium, then sell the shares immediately for cash and buy more.

The post-dated cheque cycle became a credit market, not a share market, and loans were effectively made with annual interest rates at well over 100 per cent. At the peak, dealers were said to be paying a 300 per cent premium for six months.

Jassim's solution to the post-dated cheque problem? "We should drop the government's requirement for immediate cheque payment and go back to the original spot price with a small percentage, a reduced premium."

Now, six months later, the government is struggling to come up with formulae which will reduce

the KD 27 billion (\$94 billion) of cheques to a net level of KD 7 billion, and then lower. Everyone in Kuwait has a different way to solve the problem. The finance minister has rejected a "blanket solution."

I was used

Meanwhile, Jassim still comes to his office at the Souq most nights. Seated in his leather swivel desk chair in a smoke-filled room, he leans back in the chair, adjusts his Arab head-dress and puffs on a Marlboro. He orders another round of Turkish coffees for his guests and smiles wanly.

"If I am in prison, it will be unfair. I will defend my name until the end of my life... I was used."

Would he do it all again if he had the chance? "I would do the same things again, avoiding some mistakes," says an unrepentant Jassim. "I have done nothing wrong."

Meanwhile, Kuwait searches for a solution to the cheque crisis. The longer the search goes on, the more the country becomes riddled by uncertainty and confusion. Although the government would deny it today, most seasoned Kuwait observers reckon it will end up spending a few billion dollars on a bail-out, probably one which is camouflaged in rhetoric and loan talk.

As for Jassim Al-Mutawa, he seems resigned to his fate but determined to fight for his honour. Does prospect of prison frighten him? "No," answers Jassim. "I am not afraid of anything or anybody but Allah."

— Financial Times news features

LETTERS

A recipe for improved road safety

To the Editor:

May I take this opportunity to put forward my recipe for the improvement of road safety in Jordan?

My proposal is based upon my own assessment of current standards in Jordan and my experience of motoring in the U.K. and Europe. A new Road Safety Committee should be established. It should consist of one representative from each of the following business and government sectors: Police; civil defence; Motor Traders' Assoc.; Driving Instructors' Assoc.; the legal profession; Royal Automobile Club; Jordan Television; and the Advertising Assoc.

The committee should have executive powers to investigate all annals of road safety in Europe and North America (the most densely populated motoring areas); to lobby parliament for the introduction of new legislation; to call for allocation of space within the mass media to transmit road safety programmes; and to generally strengthen the role of the police in implementing new safety checks on the highways.

The members should be active, energetic personalities. They should be reimbursed, by fees and expenses, for the time that they devote to their tasks, inside and outside of the committee. They should be called upon to publish monthly or quarterly reports of their decisions or recommendations, in relation to education via the mass media, public displays, competitions and new policing activities.

For such a committee to be effective, it would need the services of a full-time secretary to direct the day-to-day business of the office. Parliament would have to allocate funds for its operation.

Initially, one may feel that the committee should be established within the Ministry of Transport, but it should be remembered that "safety" extends into education, information, and so on.

Mass education can be best achieved by regular, repetitive projection into the home (especially via television). A weekly programme will not have any long-term impact. The transmission time now wasted by JTV (between programmes) could be better used to "sell" safety to its captive audience. And, in time, the abilities of the committee could be drawn upon to promote better health, the environment and the countryside.

I am sure that other safety committees, outside of Jordan, have extensive libraries of successful TV films that could be "dubbed" in to Arabic, at little expense, for transmission here. By drawing on their experience, Jordan could avail of proven campaign materials and begin to implement long-term safety education more quickly and more economically than initiating their own original programmes.

Let's hope that my suggestions are heeded and that a new Road Safety Committee is established very soon to make your roads safer for your future citizens.

Name of sender, withheld upon his request. The writer resides in Irbid.

Letters intended for publication should be addressed to the editor and contain the writer's signature, name and address. Letters may be edited or abridged. We cannot acknowledge all letters, but we value the views of the readers who submit them.

Temperatures rising in Switzerland around issues of nuclear power

By Andrew Gowers
Reader

BASLE — Political decisions which will determine the shape of Switzerland's energy supply in the 1990s and beyond are on the horizon, and temperatures are rising here around the controversial issues of nuclear power.

An anti-nuclear lobby is intent on halting the atomic power programme, which the government says is indispensable. Just a few kilometres up the Rhine from Basle an idle half-excavated stretch of land provides a symbol of their success. This was to be the site of the Kaiseraugst nuclear power station, intended to fill what the government sees as a dangerous gap in the country's electricity supply from 1990.

But building on it has been paralysed by politics ever since demonstrators illegally occupied the site eight years ago in Switzerland's first recorded anti-nuclear protest. A proposal to continue the work is now making its way through Switzerland's labyrinthine legislature. Last week it passed its first hurdle, with a narrow majority in favour in the upper house of parliament.

But before the lower house, said by political commentators to be more hostile to the project, passes judgement the Swiss public must have its say.

Voters will be asked in a referendum this year or next whether Switzerland should build any more nuclear power stations after a plant at Leibstadt, north of Zurich, is completed. Work is due to finish there in 1985.

The government's answer is "yes". Electricity supplies almost a third of Switzerland's energy needs, and nearly half of that is nuclear-generated. It says proposed alternatives, such as increased use of hydroelectric power, are inadequate. In addition, official policy is to reduce the country's dependence on imported oil from about 60 per cent in 1980 to 45 per cent at the end of the century.

Nuclear power is central to this, and the generating industry maintains that, as demand for electricity is projected to grow steadily, new power plants will need to be built at a steady rate to supplement or replace the four already on stream. The problem is that even theoretical advocates of nuclear power in the Basle region are against the Kaiseraugst plant because of its position.

The site, at the Swiss border with France and West Germany, is at the heart of one of the most densely populated regions in Europe, with about 2.3 million inhabitants. Opponents say the area is already saturated with nuclear power stations.

What is more, there is a small risk of earthquakes in the area. Because of this a government commission on nuclear power station safety called the site the least favourable in Switzerland and demanded additional precautions.

Some influential pro-nuclear voices in the region have already drawn their conclusion. "Kaiseraugst remains a misconceived project on a site that no one would choose today," wrote Gerd Padel, editor of the Basler Zeitung in a commentary at the weekend.

The only solution is to stop building it before the climate becomes more poisoned, he argued, hinting at a widespread fear that the issue of nuclear power in general is becoming confused with the purely local problem of Kaiseraugst.

Some campaigners are apparently turning to violence. Before the decision in the upper house of parliament, a pylon carrying nuclear-generated power to West Germany was blown up and some members of parliament received explosive packages in the mail. Letters warned of more such actions if Kaiseraugst is not scrapped.

Although they have not yet managed to stop the new power stations, opponents claim success in forcing the government to adopt tighter safety regulations for existing plants.

They are also largely res-

ponsible for the —in Swiss terms—speedy treatment being given to the nuclear referendum. If voters accept this proposal the government will be forced to cancel the Kaiseraugst plant in any case.

Precedent suggests such a vote could go either way. A number of local proposals to make decisions on nuclear power more democratic have been adopted in recent years, but a national petition along the same lines was narrowly rejected in 1979. But the decision on Kaiseraugst in particular is being billed as a battle between national and regional interest, an issue always bound to raise hackles in Switzerland.

According to an opinion poll published in 1981, more than half the Swiss oppose the new plant. Only a third are in favour. Swiss industry is watching the debate extremely nervously, because of the enormous financial interests at risk.

It is estimated that nearly one billion Swiss francs (\$500 million) have been spent on the power station up to now with no return. More will be lost if the project is called off. One shareholder in the project has already lost patience. Last week, France's state-owned electricity company, Electricite de France, cut its stake by more than half. Its stated reason: politically inspired delay and the resultant spiralling costs.

Beirut plans \$3 billion reconstruction of shattered city centre

By Alan Philips
Reuters

BEIRUT — Long-delayed plans to revive Beirut's shattered city centre are being implemented at last and the Lebanese are praying that this time reconstruction will be for real.

The commercial core, once famed for its bustling, vaulted markets and cinemas decked with lurid posters, was devastated and looted during the 1975-76 civil war.

Though the street fighting ended long ago, the battle lines remained drawn within the centre of the city and its ruins became a symbol of the civil war's unhealed wounds.

But now the city authorities seizing the chance of the fragile peace that set in after last summer's Israeli invasion, have dusted off reconstruction plans first drawn up in 1977.

They are on show at a cramped fourth-floor office which has become a magnet for hundreds of Lebanese seeking to know the fate of the shops and homes they abandoned to the gunmen in 1975.

Every morning dozens of traders pore over architects' blueprints, trying to identify their old properties amid the half-forgotten geography of the city centre.

An old man names a shop he had in a market street once known as the best place to buy women's fashions. "You are free to build in accordance with the construction law," he is told by a dark-suited official.

Another has a plot of land where a road is to be driven through the crumbling, French colonial-style mansions near the

port. "Your property is to be expropriated. The government will compensate you," comes the reply.

Several traders have already watched in sorrow as giant yellow bulldozers reduced the ancient gold market to rubble.

Officials said the structure, once an Aladdin's cave of treasures, was too damaged to be rebuilt. All that remains is a muddy wasteland next to Martyr's Square, formerly the hub of city life but now little more than a vacant lot. "Our goal

Beirut city authorities seizing the chance of the fragile peace have dusted off reconstruction plans first drawn up in 1977.

is to give Beirut a new soul," says City Governor Murti Nammar, himself a refugee from his bullet-scarred headquarters in the centre.

The city has been divided on sectarian lines since the civil war, and badly needs a new heart as a symbol of reconciliation between the mainly Christian east and predominantly Muslim west.

The government only managed to take control of the city centre after the Israeli siege of west Beirut last summer forced out its Palestinian defenders and smashed the power of their Lebanese leftist allies.

After four months of clearing mines, booby-traps and unexploded shells, the government has announced it is ready to start the reconstruction programme which is expected to take seven years and cost \$3 billion.

Contractors are preparing to tender for the first project, a scheme to build car parks, roads and flyovers, including an underground coastal highway symbolically linking the two sides of the city. Construction is expected to begin in May.

Mr. Nammar's plans are basically those that were adopted in 1977 with French advice, but which had to be shelved when renewed tension brought snipers back downtown.

"The only difference is that there is quite a lot more destruction now," was the wry comment of one architect involved in the plan.

The key to the master plan is the division of the 3.5 square kilometre centre into 10 zones according to the level of destruction and projected future use.

Some areas are earmarked to be razed to make way for new buildings or roads. But most of the ancient market will be rebuilt, at least on the ground floor, and mosques and churches will be restored.

Since all the land is private, lawyers predict a host of legal wrangles when the development plans finally get underway.

Much remains to be worked out, and the biggest question mark hanging over the plans is the still-uneasy security situation.

In a haunting reminder of how plans in Lebanon can go awry, rusting scaffolding from the abortive

reconstruction effort in 1977 still remains in place round some buildings.

While the barricades have been cleared away on the Western side, many are still in place in the narrow streets that connect the decaying centre with the prosperous Christian suburbs.

Christian militiamen lurking among the deserted houses say the barricades cannot be removed until the mines are cleared. But leftists charge that the Christian rightists are unwilling to let the mine-clearers in and want to keep the barricades up.

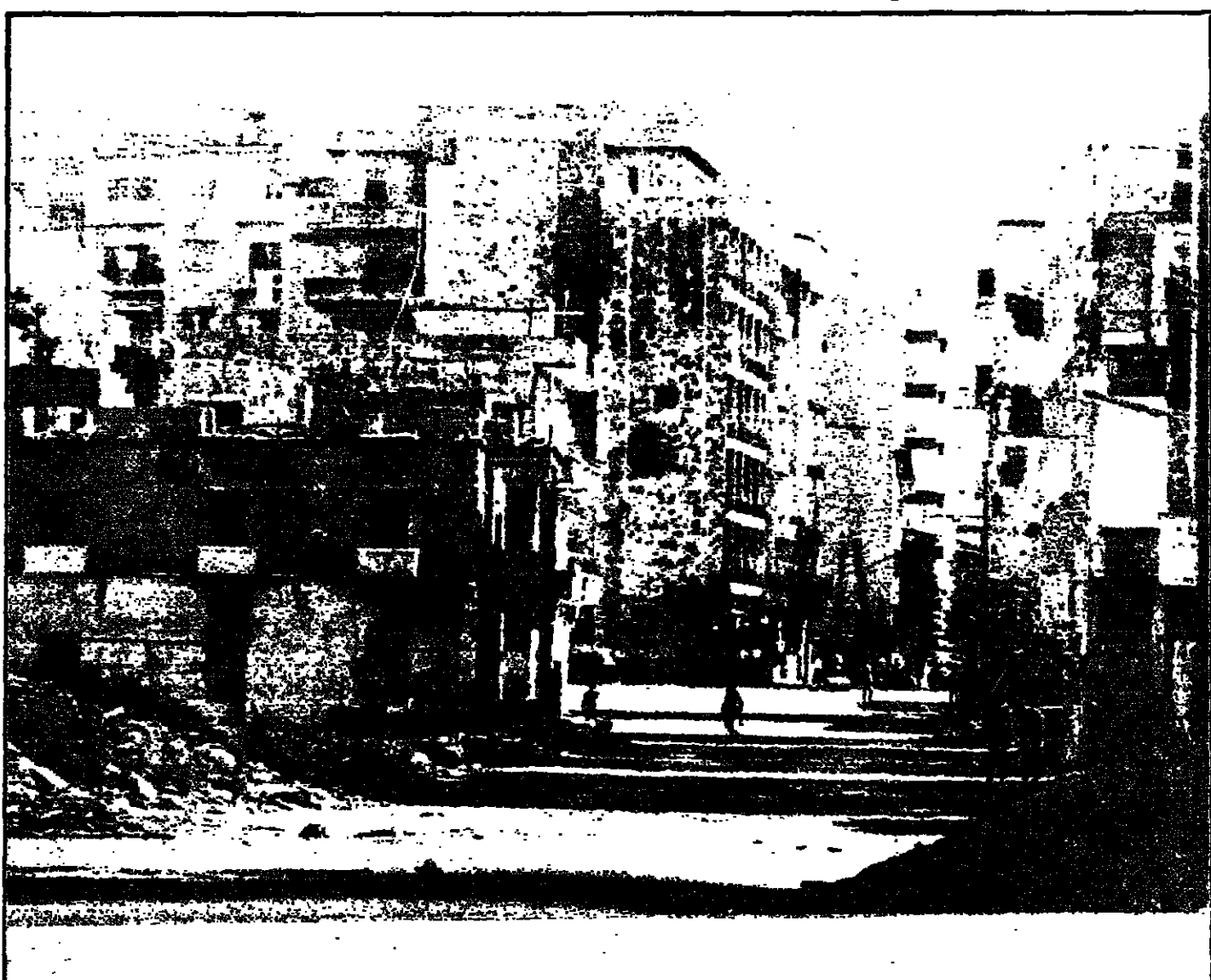
A further problem is who will pay for it all. Mohammed Attallah, head of the council for development and reconstruction, a government agency, has made it clear that foreign firms wanting to win contracts in the city centre should be backed by cheap, long-term finance from their governments.

This may be a tall order for some countries to provide, given that Lebanon, which is still 80 per cent controlled by foreign armies, has yet to prove it can maintain any stability.

Banking sources say that the central bank is unwilling to fuel inflation, already running at around 20 per cent, by funding reconstruction from domestic borrowing.

Arab countries have pledged large sums in the past for reconstruction, but the funds are not going to roll in until Israeli troops have left Lebanon, bankers believe.

No one doubts, however, that if the right atmosphere of confidence is created, the Lebanese would be the first to invest.



Beirut's ruins became a symbol of the civil war's unhealed wounds, but reconstruction plans drawn up in 1977 now look like being implemented.

Israel invites Hollywood to build studio complex on West Bank

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

JERUSALEM — Israel, anxious to boost its industry in the Israeli-occupied Arab West Bank, is giving generous financial backing to two Hollywood film producers building a multi-million-dollar studio complex in the area.

The project is the biggest yet to be proposed for the West Bank. Officials hope the jobs it creates will help the expansion of the settlements Israel has carried out since it occupied the West Bank in the 1967 six-day Arab-Israeli war.

Israel is providing Israeli-born Menachem Golan and Yoram Globus with \$6 million, 35 per cent as an outright grant, towards the project under construction at Maale Adumim, about 16 kilometres east of Jerusalem.

The government has also offered the project subsidised building land and income tax exemption for the first five years after the complex shows a profit. A confident Mr. Globus told Reuters:

"Movie-makers will be flooding to produce their films here once we have set up the facilities. And with the Israeli government ready

to lend them two dollars for every one they invest at 75 per cent of European interest rates, what could possibly stop our success?"

The Los Angeles-based producers have already put \$4 million into the Maale Adumim project.

Apart from film and television studios, the producers have planned to build 100 houses in the town for staff and visiting crews, a small airport, a 20,000 seat amphitheatre and satellite communications facilities.

The government estimates the town will grow to 40,000 in the next few years and a road to Jerusalem is being built which will cut travel time to the city centre to 15 minutes.

"Maale Adumim is the perfect location for filming. It's close to

the centre but in the desert. Israel offers experienced crews and technicians, cheap labour and production costs and of course magnificent desert locations," Mr. Globus said.

The producers' optimism is shared by Science and Technology

Minister Yuval Neeman, who believes the West Bank could well become a booming industrial centre. He told Reuters:

"Samar (the northern section of the West Bank) has incredible potential. A young, intellectual population is living there that has already made a promising start in building a computer software industry."

Professor Neeman, a member of the small, extreme right-wing Tehiya (Renaissance) party, said

computer firms were already working in the settlement of Eilon Moreh, near the city of Nablus, and in Ofra, a settlement near Ramallah.

He added that a technical college in the town of Ariel was training computer programmers who were the future of a Samaritan computer industry. The government intends Ariel to become Israel's biggest West Bank town, eventually housing 150,000.

The government provides a political insurance scheme for nervous investors worried about the West Bank's future. The Yarnai Fund, jointly operated by the industry ministry and private insurance firms, offers policies against the possibility of the West Bank ever leaving Israeli control.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin has said Israel will continue its policy, opposed by Arab nations, of settling Jews in what he calls "divinely ordained" land promised to the Jewish people.

The film producers say they are not interested in politics. "We are businessmen," Mr. Globus said. "We are putting a lot of money into this and we intend to invest it where we will get the best terms and the best return. In Israel, that means the West Bank."

Redevelopment of London means compromise with archaeology

By Alister Doyle
Reuters

LONDON — In a deep muddy hole at Billingsgate by the north bank of London's River Thames, archaeologists last year dug up a 2,000-year record of the city's past, including a third-century Roman wharf.

But at the beginning of February, eight months later, history moved out and the developers of a £20 million (\$31 million) office complex moved in.

"The deposits we have looked at simply end up in the back of lorries being tipped away in the marshes or filling up some quarry out in the wilds," said Brian Hobley, chief urban archaeologist at the Museum of London.

The story illustrates the struggle of London's archaeologists to rescue what they can before almost all trace of the ancient city is gouged out to make way for multi-storey car parks and concrete tower blocks.

Within 20 years the imperial Roman city of Londinium, now buried in some six metres of rubbish under the capital's financial district, will be all but wiped out, said Mr. Hobley.

Devastating fires which swept through London in 60 A.D. and 1666 posed less of a threat to understanding the city's past than did new development, he said.

Ever-taller office blocks need ever-deeper foundations, and these are obliterating the 2,000-year archive of the city's past buried below.

When developers arrived it meant total destruction, Mr. Hobley said. "They simply start with a large trench, pour in concrete and have multi-storey car parks below ground level. Nothing survives."

New buildings used to be built on the ruins of old ones, leaving fragments from which archaeologists could piece together the city's history. But tower blocks will have erased all but a tenth of Londinium by the year 2000.

What is left then, said Mr. Hobley, "should be fairly safe, under roads, in churchyards, and so on."

With redevelopment quickening in the bustling streets above the imperial city, and with huge gaps in London's history, the Museum of London's team of archaeologists was set up in 1973.

Founded as a port to exploit Britain after the Roman invasion of 43 A.D., "London was something like a Wild West town in its

early days," Mr. Hobley said. But it grew to equal any city outside Rome and its architecture was on an imperial scale.

But no one yet knows what happened to the city for 300 years in the Dark Ages after the collapse of the Roman empire.

Londinium may have fallen into decline, with only squatters living in its crumbling ruins, until it re-emerged as the Saxon town of Lundenwic, Mr. Hobley said.

Little of the Roman city can now be seen, with only a dozen or so fragments preserved on their original sites.

Huge pressures on space in the capital's financial district made it unrealistic to try to preserve chunks of the city's past there, said John Wilkes, Professor of Roman Archaeology at London's Institute of Archaeology.

Office space is the most expensive in the country and prices are soaring. But the historians are armed with the Archaeological Areas Act of 1979, which guarantees them access to important sites even if developers do not want them there.

As a result, "If a Roman house turned up just round the corner from the Bank of England, with mosaics, paintings and sculptures,

these would be lifted and put on public display," Professor Wilkes said.

But Mr. Hobley admitted that not everything could be saved. "To fight for every square metre may put at risk many, many sites," he said. "One can't frustrate the need for urban renewal. It would be tactically stupid of us to do that."

In fact, relations with developers in the capital are good. Mr. Hobley noted that in ten years the Museum of London had never been denied access to a site, and its diggers usually got about six months for their work between demolition and redevelopment.

Developers had even agreed two or three times to preserve remains of Londinium in their basements, and often paid the archaeologists' full costs, he said.

But despite ten years of work and some 100 excavations, the gaps remain, and now the museum is searching for a deep waterlogged site, the most likely place to hold clues to the capital's fate in the dark ages.

"You can't just erase hundreds of years of history," Mr. Hobley said. "The evidence is there somewhere."

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 Koran
17:50 Cartoons
18:10 Cartoons
18:30 Beverly Hills
19:00 Local Programme
19:30 Local Programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Arab Series
21:10 Arab Heritage
21:35 News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

18:00 French Programme
19:00 News in French
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:30 Comedy
21:00 Marco Polo
21:30 News in English
22:15 Play of the Week

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM
& party on 9560 KHz, SW

07:30 Morning Show
08:00 News Summary
08:30 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:30 News Summary
11:00 News Summary
11:30 Pop Session
12:00 News Bulletin
12:30 Pop Session
13:00 News Bulletin
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BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Waveguide 06:40 Book Choice 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours News Summary 07:30

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"Paintings by Arab, Taiwanese children at the Hays Arts Centre."

"Yugoslav paintings, at the Jordan Fine Arts Association."

"History of the French Song," at the French Cultural Centre.

"La Chienne," by Jean Renoir, at the French Cultural Centre at 8:30 p.m.

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MUSEUMS

Foldover Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum. Jabal Al-Lawzeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports Club, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

Service Clubs

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261.

Prayer Times

06:55 (Sunrise) Shuarh

06:58 Dhuhr

11:50 'Asr

16:55 Maghreb

18:46 Isha

18:46 Isha

18:46 Isha

18:46 Isha

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18:46 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia Information department at Amman Airport. Tel. 92205-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA)

07:45 Karachi (PIA)

08:45 Cairo (RJ)

09:45 Agaba (RJ)

10:45 Abu Dhabi (RJ)

11:45 Doha (RJ)

12:45 Beirut (RJ)

13:45 Beirut (RJ)

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25:45 Beirut (RJ)

26:45 Beirut (RJ)

27:45 Beirut (RJ)

28:45 Beirut (RJ)

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in JLD

Belgian franc 74.4

Dutch guilder 133.4

Egyptian piastre 319.3

French franc 32.7

Irish dinar 52.2

Israeli sheqel 560.6

Italian lire (for 100) 25.6

Japanese yen (for 100) 151.1

Kuwaiti dinar 121.1

Lebanese lira 89.4

Omani rial 101.7

Qatari riyal 96.9

Saudi riyal 102.6

Swedish crown 47.8

Swiss franc 177.4

Syrian lira 62.2

UAE dirham 96.2

U.K. sterling pound 54

SPORTS

Arguello plans to quit boxing

SCOTTSDALE, (Arizona) (A.P.)—Alexis Arguello says he plans to retire from boxing in December to keep a promise to his 10-year-old son, even if it means giving up his goal of becoming the first fighter to ever win titles in four different weight classes.

"This year will be it. After '83, no more," Arguello told the Associated Press on Tuesday while training here for a non-title bout later this month in Texas. "I will probably have four more fights this year. In December, I will make the announcement," he added.

"And when I quit, I'm not going to come back one year later like some other guys. I just want to quit once and for all. I've already promised my son that," added the

30-year-old Arguello. "A.J. will be 11-years-old on Feb. 22. I want us to spend more time together," he said.

"I don't see him for two to three months when I'm training. It's hard for a 10-year-old kid to be by himself, feed himself, dress himself. He needs me and I need him. We've talked about this (retirement) for a long time. I gave him my word," Arguello said.

In his latest fight on Nov. 13, Arguello lost on a 14th-round technical knockout to World Boxing Association Junior Welterweight Champion Aaron Pryor.

Arguello, owner of a 76-5 record, has already won championships in the feather-weight, junior lightweight and lightweight

divisions. He is scheduled to fight Vilomar Fernandez in San Antonio on Feb. 21 with a possible re-match with Pryor reportedly earmarked for this summer.

Should he beat Pryor and finally attain the fourth title, Arguello said he would "defend it one or two times" and still retire by the end of 1983.

"If I don't win the four titles, maybe my destiny was to win only three," Arguello said. "I believe we're all here for a reason," he added.

Upon retirement, he said he plans to enroll at the University of Miami, Florida, and study physical education "to learn how to be a good teacher in sports. I want to help people, help kids."

Derby ordered to pay compensation to Bradford City

LONDON (R)—English soccer club Derby County, bottom of the second division, have been ordered by the Football League to pay £55,000 (\$84,700) compensation to third division Bradford City after "poaching" their manager.

Last month a Football League board of appeal ruled that Derby had to pay a £10,000 fine imposed last November for enticing Roy McFarland—a former Derby defender—to join them from Bradford.

The appeal board also warned that Derby could be forced to pay compensation.

The club has 14 days to appeal against the decision.

Roldan, Scypion line up to meet Marvelous Marvin

NEW YORK (R)—Argentine Juan Domingo Roldan and American Wilford Scypion look set to be Marvelous Marvin Hagler's next challengers for the world middleweight boxing crown after Frank "the Animal" Fletcher's surprise defeat Monday.

Hagler and Fletcher, ranked second by both the World Boxing Association (WBA) and the World Boxing Council (WBC), had already signed to fight for the title on May 20.

But two days after Hagler's ruthless sixth-round defeat of Britain's Tony Sibson in Worcester, Massachusetts, Fletcher was outpointed by Scypion in Atlantic City—and lost his title shot in the process.

Bob Arum, who promoted both bouts, said last week that a victory

by Scypion could earn him a crack at Hagler's title. But Roldan, the WBA's number one contender, may be first in line.

The slow-moving but hard-hitting Argentine stopped American Wilbur Henderson in the seventh round of a scheduled 10-round bout on the same bill as the Hagler-Sibson fight on Friday.

Scypion, 26, who boasts a record of 26 wins and three defeats, is ranked sixth by the WBC but is unranked by the WBA.

He dictated most of the fight against Fletcher, taking full advantage of his longer reach.

"Thank God that I was in shape and that I took this fight seriously," he said. "Now the people know what Wilford Scypion is about."

West Indian Holding to join English cricket club Derbyshire

LONDON (R)—West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding is to play for English cricket club Derbyshire next season once his international duties in the World Cup are over.

Derbyshire made their offer to Holding last week but Holding, who played for Lancashire in 1981 and last season, only accepted Tuesday.

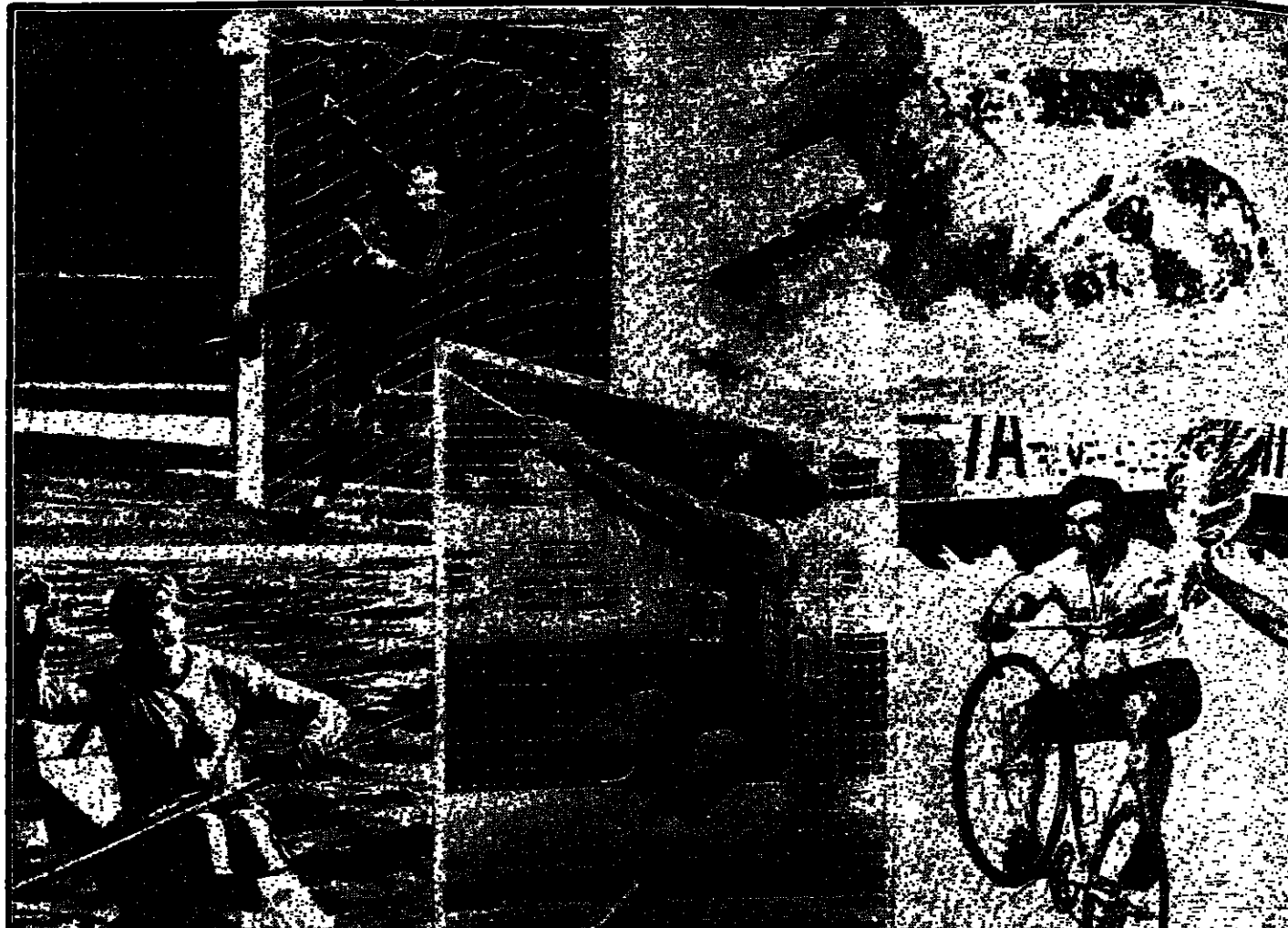
The club has two other registered overseas players but neither will be available in the new season.

New Zealander John Wright will be involved in the World Cup and then on the tour which follows, while South African Peter Kirsten wants to remain in South Africa to pursue business interests.

McCrory, Jones clash for vacant WBC welterweight championship

NEW YORK (R)—Undeclared American Milton McCrory will meet once-beaten Colin Jones of Wales on March 19 in Reno, Nevada for the vacant World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight championship, promoter Don King announced Tuesday.

The fight, at the Reno Convention Center, is scheduled for 12 rounds in accordance with a recent edict by the WBC that reduced all title bouts from 15 rounds to 12.



MASTERS OF SOVIET SPORTS—Late in 1982, the USSR's Federation of Sports Newswriters, jointly with the USSR's Sports Committee, polled the Soviet Union's sports commentators of periodicals, radio and TV for the best ten athletes and sportsmen of the passing year. Five of the top ten (photo) included:

Vladimir Salnikov, a 22-year-old student of Leningrad's Physical Culture College, winner of the three last Olympics in swimming. In 1982 he won gold medals in the 400 m and 1,500 m events at the world championships in Ecuador. In fact, almost each time when he got his feet wet at a major contest, he won. At the USSR vs. GDR match Salnikov set world records in the 400 m and 1,500 m events.

Rinat Dasayev, the goalkeeper for the USSR national soccer team. Commentators at the World Cup finals in Spain, enchanted

by Dasayev's bold action, named him one of the best goalies of the world.

Kayak paddler Vladimir Parfenovich, won three gold medals at the 1982 world championships. This athlete from Minsk handles his paddle with fine dexterity, his staying power is immense, and his will is of iron.

Yuri Sedykh, hammer thrower from Kiev. He is in the top ten for the second time, for sports commentators named him one of the best Soviet athletes two years ago. He is the champion of the Olympics in Montreal and in Moscow. Last year Sedykh won the European title.

Sergei Kopylov, cycle racer from Tula, who won the world title for the second time—in the sprint race, setting a record at the championship in Great Britain.

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Shergar's kidnapping casts cloud over Irish bloodstock

DUBLIN (R)—The kidnapping of the champion racehorse Shergar from an Irish stud has cast a cloud over the Irish bloodstock industry, a bright spot in an otherwise lack-lustre economy.

Shergar, winner in six of his eight races including the English and Irish Derbys, was snatched from the Aga Khan's Ballymahon stud west of Dublin by armed men last Tuesday.

His whereabouts are still a mystery and there is growing anxiety within the country and breeding circles about how this could hit a multi-million-dollar industry.

Peter McKee, managing director of the Curragh Bloodstock Agency, near the racecourse of the same name, said: "The kidnapping could have quite a serious effect on the whole Irish economy."

Some breeders fear that wealthy foreign horse-owners, attracted to Ireland by its traditional expertise, favourable climate and tax concessions, may be frightened off.

It was reported here that the Aga Khan, with a breeding empire of some 200 mares and large numbers of shares in syndicated stallions such as Shergar, chose Ireland over the United States

where he had more lucrative offers.

While he raised £10 million (\$15 million) by selling 34 shares in Shergar and keeping six, he could have earned over \$30 million syndicating the horse in America.

There is much at stake in Irish horse-breeding. One estimate put the value of foreign investments and breeding fees at over £100 million (\$137 million) a year, though the real figure may be much more.

Captain Sean Berry of the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders' Association described it as a "multi-million-pound industry" concentrated in about 20 top stud farms scattered around the country.

Apart from the money, it provides employment, directly or indirectly, for some 50,000 people in a country where 14.5 per cent of the work force are without jobs.

According to Captain Berry, Ireland exports some 80 per cent of its thoroughbreds, making it the second largest bloodstock exporter after the United States.

Shergar was due to cover up to 55 mares, at £70,000 (\$95,000) a time, during the six-month breeding season which began last

Monday. So far he has shown remarkable fecundity, getting 40 of last season's 42 mares in foal and he became a father for the first time last week.

During the season a prize stallion is put on a special diet of up to 14 pounds (six kgs) of oats and half a bundle of hay a day and is exercised regularly to keep him fit.

If Shergar is not recovered soon, a whole year's revenue could be lost to his owners and there is a danger that he may lose his mating urge if kept away from mares for too long, experts said.

Captain Berry said the kidnapping was unlikely to have major long-term consequences for the industry.

The Irish breeding industry is concentrated in two main areas—around the Curragh, in County Kildare, where the Aga Khan's stud is situated and in Tipperary, where Ireland's leading racehorse trainer Vincent O'Brien is based.

One attraction is tax exemption for stallions' fees, a considerable draw.

Captain Berry conceded that security at studs, which has generally been relatively relaxed compared to security at racing stables, would have to be tightened.



But best-selling racing mystery writer Dick Francis, himself a former jockey, said the security problem at studs was not peculiar

to Ireland but was world-wide. Mr. Francis was quoted by an Irish newspaper as saying he was able recently to walk into the paddock in Maryland of Native Dancer, the most potent high-class stallion in the breeding industry, worth even more than Shergar.

According to industry sources in Dublin, Shergar was insured against accidental injury in the stable or on the track and against loss of fertility, but not against kidnapping or malicious damage for which no policy would be available.

In case of malicious damage or kidnapping, the owners would have to sue the local authorities to recover their investment. If the act was politically motivated, they would have to approach the Irish government.

Police have said that so far there was no indication that the kidnapping was the work of nationalist guerrillas fighting to over-

turn British rule in Northern Ireland who have been responsible for a number of major crimes in recent years.

Brickbats, bouquets for Australians

SYDNEY (R)—Australia's cricketers must take the brickbats as well as the bouquets while they bask in the glory of regaining the Ashes and winning the World Series cup in a chequered international season.

The Australians' behaviour on the field tarnished their triumphant progress which was watched by one million spectators and an equal number of television viewers here and in England.

Australia's 2-1 win over England in the Ashes tests and their one-day triangular cup success culminating in victory over New Zealand in the final were marked by incidents scarcely in keeping with the spirit of the game.

POSITION REQUIRED

A Jordanian civil engineer, fluent in English with 4 years experience in supervision, looking for a job with a consulting or contracting company.

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CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION

THE FAR EAST COMMERCIAL OFFICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA, Amman, wishes to announce that the itinerant 12TH WORLD SCHOOL CHILDREN'S EXHIBITION, which was held in TAIWAN, Republic of China, last year, will be on show at the Amira Haya Centre, Shmeisani, from Thursday 17th through Saturday 19th February from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Children from more than sixty countries, including many Arab countries, contributed two hundred paintings. Many of them won golden, silver and bronze medals in the WCP competitions. The aim is to promote friendship between peoples through formative art.

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AN EXPRESSION OF GRATITUDE

We would like to express our gratitude to Dr. T.D.H. Gray and his assistants and staff at St. Paul's Eye Hospital in Liverpool England, for their help and concern during our son's retina detachment operation which was performed successfully.

Also we appreciate the immense help given by Dr. A. Halasa and Dr. F. Sayegh for diagnosing the case and for their sincere advice.

Samir and Grace Habbalbeh

ECONOMY

Japan will continue to restrain car exports to U.S., Canada

TOKYO (R) — Japan announced that it would continue to restrain car exports to the United States and Canada this year and said a joint car production deal between Toyota and General Motors would help the U.S. motor industry.

The companies have agreed in principle to produce jointly a small car for the U.S. market from early 1985 at a General Motors plant in California with a Japanese-appointed manager.

Toyota said about half the car's content would be of American origin.

Japan's international trade and industry minister, Mr. Sadamori Yamanaka, told reporters the Toyota-General Motors deal would contribute to the revitalization of idle American factories and increase employment in the United States.

The minister said in a statement that Tokyo would continue to hold car exports to the U.S. at 1.68 million for a third year from April 1 but added that the agreement would not be continued into a fourth year.

Japanese motor industry sources said U.S. carmakers had been

hoping for another two years of restraint under the agreement, aimed at allowing them time to retool and meet Japanese competition in the U.S. market.

The trade ministry also said Tuesday that Japanese car exports to Canada for the first six months of 1983 would be less than 79,000, or 12 per cent lower than the 90,000 sent in the same period a year ago.

A ministry spokesman expressed hope that the two countries would soon resume talks on a target for the whole year.

Japanese exports took almost 30 per cent of the dwindling Canadian car market in 1982 despite officially-sanctioned customs delays in Vancouver.

Mr. Yamanaka said Japan now hoped the U.S. administration would appreciate the steps taken by Japan and act against protectionist moves in the country.

Japan's announcement follows agreement last week to limit the export of goods including cars, televisions and video tape recorders to the European Community.

General Motors, the largest U.S. carmaker, and Toyota have agreed on a 50-50 joint venture to produce annually 200,000 Japanese-designed and powered family cars at the idle General Motors plant at Fremont, California, where the deal is to be signed on Thursday.

Toyota, the most successful foreign car importer in the U.S. market, said the agreement would end not later than 12 years after start of production.

The new car is to replace General Motors' ageing Chevette line. In Detroit, General Motors' Chairman Roger Smith said the new car would require 3,000 production workers.

About 9,000 employees would be hired by suppliers of parts.

But the pact between Toyota and General Motors came under immediate fire from Mr. Lee Iacocca, chairman of Chrysler, the third largest U.S. carmaker.

"It puts world markets within the dominating grasp of two companies that together already control 25 per cent of the world's auto sales," Mr. Iacocca said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. firms slash oil price

NEW YORK (R) — Two of the leading U.S. oil companies slashed the price they pay for domestic crude oil by \$1 a barrel Monday, two weeks after a similar \$1 cut. Texaco was the first to make the move, saying it would now pay \$30 a barrel for West Texas intermediate sweet crude oil, a key indicator of prices for all types of U.S. oil. West Texas intermediate sweet crude was selling for \$35 a barrel in early 1981. Phillips Petroleum said later it was also cutting the price it pays for crude oil by \$1.

Quebec premier to break strike

QUEBEC CITY (R) — Quebec Premier Rene Levesque said Monday he will recall the provincial legislature to enact an emergency law to force 90,000 striking teachers back to work. Mr. Levesque did not say when he would ask the lawmakers to return to end the strike, which was called 15 days ago and has kept 1.3 million students out of classrooms. The teachers are the only members of a coalition of civil service unions still on strike over the Quebec government's efforts to impose a 20 per cent wage cut.

Food imports burden Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Egypt spends \$7 million a day on financing food imports, minister of supply and internal trade Mr. Ahmad Noah was quoted Monday as saying. The official Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Mr. Noah told members of the ruling National Democratic Party that the government was also spending about \$316 million a year subsidizing food ration cards, used by an estimated 8.2 million families. Mr. Noah said the government was working out a new system for rationed food allowances, which would partly remove state subsidies from less poor claimants and save \$56 million.

Regan stresses funding IMF

WASHINGTON (R) — Treasury Secretary Donald Regan said Monday the future health of the U.S. and global economies was linked to providing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with new finances. In the opening salvo of a campaign to get Congress to approve new funds for the lending agency so it can assist debt-ridden countries, Mr. Regan told the Senate banking committee that mishandling of the situation could abort a recovery from recession.

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, FEB. 16, 1983

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Unless you get carried away from present goals by a new course of action, you can achieve much of value today. Stick to proven methods for best results at this time.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Find a better way of handling your responsibilities and they are soon behind you. Meet expectations of loved one.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Avoid an outside foe and be more concerned with improving business affairs. Study every angle of a new project.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take time to confer with associates and exchange clever ideas. They can be of help to you at this time. Be poised.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take steps to improve the relationship with loved one. A new contact can bring many benefits your way.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Take a little time for amusement so that you relieve possible tensions you are under. Co-workers are more cooperative now.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Plan a new course of activity that will help you gain personal and business aims that are important to you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Pursue goals of an idealistic nature and you can easily gain them. Take time to visit close ties in the evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be sure to keep promises made to family members. A new project needs more study before going ahead with it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Study the changes that need to be made so that you can command a greater abundance. Make right decisions in the evening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Good day to obtain data you need for a personal project. Good organizational work is the key to success now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Important civic affairs can be handled wisely now. Make sure you carry through with promises at this time.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Look over your environment and make plans for improvement in the future. A good friend could be helpful to you now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be one who can envision large projects and can make them work efficiently, so be sure to give your progeny as fine an education as you can to prepare for an important position in life. Give fine ethical training.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities turned mixed in moderate trading after opening firm in line with Wall Street, dealers said. The F.T. index at 1500 Tuesday was down 0.6 at 660.1.

Sentiment was dampened when trading in the new Associated British Ports' issue was postponed until Wednesday due to postal problems with the allotment letters, dealers added.

Profit-taking edged government bonds off the highs but longs were still around one point firmer in fairly active trading on the strength of sterling and stronger U.S. bond market, dealers said. Index linked bonds showed losses extending to 7/8 point.

Golds and North American shares were higher.

Government bonds attracted support mainly from domestic institutions though some overseas interest was evident, while it was noted that the government broker had been supplying stock to the market, dealers said.

UDS was up 6p at 110 on news of the increased offer from Bassishaw, while Dalgely fell 4p at 336 after six month figures. Bet rose 10p at 220 after 221 on speculation of a possible bid from Tanson Trust, which rose 5p to 201 after 202.

Banks showed gains of around 6p, while in oils, B.P. and Shell rose 4p at 322 and 442 respectively and Ultramar jumped 10p at 304. Among mixed leaders, ICI was up 6p at 396.

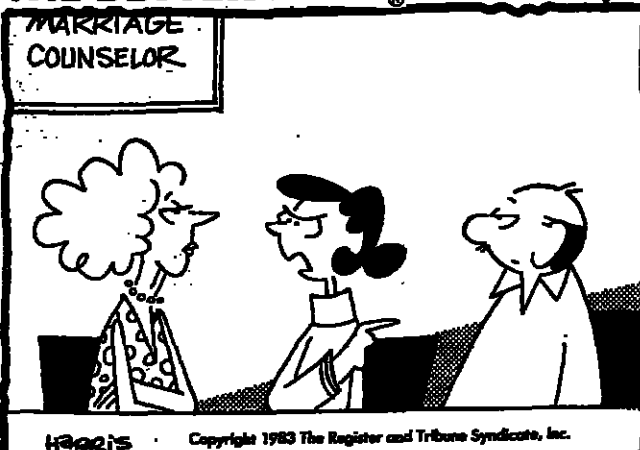
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.5488/98	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2214/17	Canadian dollars
	2.3945/55	West German marks
	2.6435/55	Dutch guilders
	1.9845/65	Swiss francs
	47.10/15	Belgian francs
	6.7860/7910	French francs
	1378.50/1379.50	Italian lire
	232.50/65	Japanese yen
	7.3640/90	Swedish crowns
	7.0340/90	Norwegian crowns
	8.4725/4825	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	510.50/511.50	U.S. dollars

THE BETTER HALF

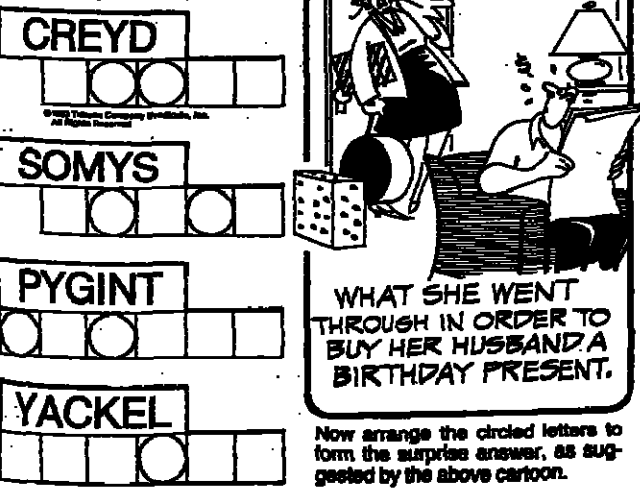
By Harris



"We went to a wine-tasting party and he tried to initiate a game of chug-a-lug!"

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here: HIS

Yesterday's Jumbles: BANAL WHITE HOMAGE BEWAIL
Answer: If you see Frankenstein's monster, Dracula and a werewolf all at the same time, better hope it's this—HALLOWEEN

Oman reopens talks on cutting oil price

BAHRAIN (R) — Oman has reopened talks with its oil company customers on cutting the price of its crude, informed oil industry sources said Tuesday.

They said the Omanis appeared to be offering a \$4 discount on the current official price of just over \$34 a barrel.

Oman produces only 350,000 barrels of oil a day and it is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It is a member of the six-country Gulf Cooperation Council, which also includes major exporters such as Saudi Arabia.

Industry analysts said a confirmed reduction in Oman's price would be of considerable significance.

Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies in OPEC are widely expected to trim their own prices by about \$4 a barrel from the current \$34 level.

Oman first began talking to the oil companies about a cut in its price last December.

Industry sources said it offered a \$2.50 a barrel reduction to Japanese refiners but a major European oil company insisted on a \$4 cut.

Oman halted an earlier round of price talks to await the outcome of last month's Geneva meeting of OPEC at which the exporter group failed to come up with an output-sharing formula to defend its \$34 benchmark price.

The industry analysts said it was not clear if the companies were

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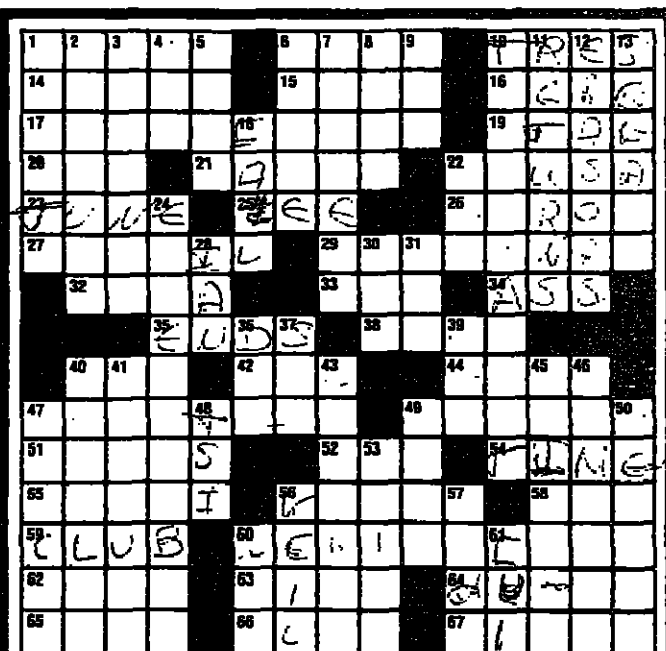


Andy Capp



THE Daily Crossword by Dorothea E. Shipp

ACROSS	1 Public quarrel	6 Soprano	10 — bien	14 Philippine	15 Animal's	16 Roll call	17 Neutral	19 A czar	20 Amerind	21 Reel, e.g.	22 "— of robins in her hair"	23 Melody	25 Majors of TV	26 Kitchen tool	27 Involve	29 Wall hanging	32 Bristle	33 Warning sign	34 Ninny	35 Make —	36 Spat	38 Hebrew month	40 Small pouch	42 — publica	44 Float	47 Part of a camera	48 Flowering shrub	51 Bayes and Heimer	52 Med. org.	54 "— we forget"	55 Russian edict	56 Vise's cousin	58 Chin or	59 Malt fol-	60 Certain awards	62 Arrow	63 Elevator	64 Lifeless	65 Soap frame	66 Dubious	67 Plateaus	12 Pencil ends	13 Guard	18 Season	22 Gibraltar	24 Comes	28 Writer	29 Fleming	30 Winglike	31 Pea place	36 Actress	37 Joanne	38 Indian	39 French	40 Washington	41 Makes	42 bubby	43 Isolate	45 Turns to	46 Ice	47 Egyptian	48 god	49 Miso—	49 Hominy	50 Bikini	53 happenings	53 Borgnine	56 Nun's cap	57 Priory	60 551	61 Adjective	ending
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WORLD

Buenos Aires reviews policy

Buenos Aires (R) — Argentina's ruling military junta has given President Reynaldo Bignone a tight set of policy guidelines to govern the country's return to democracy and deal with its economic crisis, military sources said Tuesday.

A brief communique issued after the commanders-in-chief of the army, navy and air force met President Bignone Monday night said: "The military junta and the president studied and agreed measures to be implemented in the government's future action."

It gave no details, but the sources said the measures would severely limit President Bignone's room for manoeuvre in future talks with the political parties.

Chile's 12th cabinet reshuffle since military takeover

Gen. Pinochet reshuffles cabinet

SANTIAGO (R) — Chile's President Gen. Augusto Pinochet has reshuffled his cabinet in an attempt to tackle the recession hitting the country but has pledged that his economic policy will be maintained.

"There will be no changes in the economic policy," Gen. Pinochet said in a speech Monday.

The president dismissed Economy and Finance Minister Rolf Luder, who had held both portfolios since they were combined last August.

The two posts were again separated Monday, with engineer and businessman Manuel Martin Saez named to the economy ministry and former Central Bank President Carlos Caceres given the finance portfolio.

Government sources said the moves were aimed at breathing new life into the economy. Almost 22 per cent of Chile's workforce is unemployed and the Central Bank says the foreign debt is about \$17 billion.

President Pinochet announced the dismissal of Mr. Luder after swearing into office his new foreign minister, Miguel Alex Schweitzer, to replace Rene Rojas who resigned last week.

The president also sacked Education Minister Alvaro Arriagada, replacing him with Chile's only woman minister, Monica Madariaga, who moved from the justice ministry. The new justice minister is

Jaime del Valle, deputy rector of Santiago's Roman Catholic University.

President Pinochet appointed interior under-secretary Ramon Suarez to be government secretary-general, a post with ministerial rank, to replace Herman Felipe Errazuriz who became president of the Central Bank.

It was the 12th reshuffle since Gen. Pinochet seized power in a bloody coup in which Socialist President Salvador Allende died almost 10 years ago.

A new defence minister, Adm. Patricio Carvajal, was appointed last month after Gen. Washington Carrasco resigned. The latest cabinet maintains a previous ratio of nine civilians to seven military ministers.

The reshuffle followed a bid to impeach Mr. Luder by 15 politicians, banned from political activity since the coup. They claimed Mr. Luder's closure of three financial institutions and appointment of economists as overseers in the operations of five others was unconstitutional.

Mr. Luder's actions prompted rumours that the state might take over control of Chile's financial system. But Gen. Pinochet said Monday that there would be no return to "the old Socialist-style framework."

Reported tribal killings in Assam investigated

NEW DELHI (R) — Senior officials and police Tuesday rushed to the scene of a reported massacre involving tribal gangs armed with arrows and spears in India's strife-torn northeastern state of Assam.

An Assam government spokesman said in the state capital of Gauhati that the situation in the central Darrang district was under control after tribesmen went on the rampage in 15 villages last weekend.

The state-run All India Radio quoted the spokesman as saying 10 bodies had been found so far and 1,000 village huts burned

down. But press reports Tuesday said at least 100 died in the massacre, about 130 kilometres northeast of Gauhati.

The newspaper reports said gangs armed with spears, machetes and bows and arrows attacked Assamese villagers and drove them from their homes in raids starting around midnight last Saturday.

If the massacre figure is confirmed it will take the overall death toll in election-linked violence in the past two weeks to well over 200.

Turin press demands explanation for blaze

TURIN, Italy (R) — Press Criticism mounted Tuesday over a cinema fire which killed 64 people, with newspapers for the second successive day running front-page pictures of twisted bodies and weeping relatives under protesting headlines.

The press comment focused on two facts — that such a high proportion of the youngsters inside the cinema died on Sunday, and that they mostly choked to death in smoke which billowed from the plastic furnishings.

"Scarcely more than a hundred spectators," said a stark headline in the daily Il Tempo. "In the upper gallery not a single survivor."

"They were gassed by cyanide, as if they were in an execution chamber."

"Gassed in the inferno of the cinema," said the Turin daily La Stampa. "How did this massacre happen. Who is to blame?"

Judicial sources said three magistrates would investigate the fire.

But inspectors of the blackened cinema and lengthy questioning of survivors have failed so far to pinpoint the cause of the blaze.

A short-circuit which set a curtain on fire appeared the most likely explanation, the sources said.

Arson has been virtually ruled out.

Meanwhile, anger continued to rise among the 1.1 million inhabitants of this northern industrial city, home of the giant Fiat car combine, over the way the victims were trapped in a cloud of suffocating black smoke.

"This is a city of shame," one eyewitness said.

Police said it appeared certain that three emergency exits on the upper floor, where most of the victims died, had failed to open.

This was the reason for the arrest of cinema manager, Raimondo Capello, who has been charged with responsibility for a disaster and multiple manslaughter, the police said.

Australian premier out to curb trade union power

MELBOURNE (R) — Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser appealed Tuesday to Australians to back his plans to curb trade union power.

As he was making his policy speech for general elections on March 5, a union leader was jailed for contempt of court and a train drivers strike was crippling the state of New South Wales.

Mr. Fraser, who has been in power for the past seven years at the head of a Liberal-National Party coalition, said that if re-elected he would hold a referendum on legislation "to prevent the community being denied essential services by the abuse of union power."

His government would order secret ballots on strikes in essential industries and the election of all senior union officials, he added. Government sources said the measures were expected to include jail sentences or fines for strikers.

Labour opposition leader Bob Hawke, head of the Australian

council of trade unions in the 1970s, has been campaigning on the basis of his ability to deal with the unions.

But the New South Wales train drivers overrode his appeals and went on strike Monday over manning levels.

The secretary of the Builders' Labourers' Federation, Norm Gallagher, was jailed for three months Tuesday after a ruling that he was in contempt for suggesting a strike had influenced a court decision on a previous charge.

Workers walked off building sites in Melbourne after the sentence, but Mr. Hawke said he hoped Australian industry would not be disrupted.

Mr. Fraser's speech blamed the world recession and a severe drought for the state of the economy in Australia, where the annual inflation rate is now 11 per cent.

But he said "recession would have done Australia far less damage if the unions had not pushed their demands... beyond the endurance of industry."

Artificial heart recipient's state upgraded from serious to fair

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (R) — Dr. Barney Clark, the first person to receive a permanent artificial heart on Dec. 2, has been moved to a private room at the medical centre with a panoramic view of Salt Lake City, but he is still very weak, the spokesman said.

He also received hundreds of Valentine's cards from round the world, a spokesman at the University of Utah Medical Centre said.

Dr. Clark, 62, who received his polyurethane and aluminium heart on Dec. 2, has been moved to a private room at the medical centre with a panoramic view of Salt Lake City, but he is still very weak, the spokesman said.

He said the move for Dr. Clark, a retired Seattle dentist, was the first step towards preparing him for going home. But the spokesman added he did not know when this would be.

Outspoken Irish Republican to marshal St. Patrick's Day parade

By Arthur Spiegelman

NEW YORK — New York's Saint Patrick's Day parade will be marshalled this year by an outspoken 80-year-old Irish Republican who believes violence is the only way to unite his mother country.

Michael Flannery, who in his time has fought with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), spent two years in an Irish prison and arranged for money to be sent to the IRA to buy weapons, was chosen as Grand Marshal of this year's parade — a ceremonial post bestowed by city Irish associations as a special honour.

The St. Patrick's Day parade, billed as the world's largest Irish celebration, when all New York becomes Irish for a day and even Fifth Avenue has a green stripe painted down the middle, always

has a nationalist flavour, featuring calls for England to leave Ireland.

But it has never before had an active, outspoken IRA supporter as Grand Marshal.

As a result of Mr. Flannery's selection, official Ireland is boycotting the March 17 parade and the Roman Catholic hierarchy is considering what to do.

Normally the Grand Marshal of the parade can expect to walk up the steps of St. Patrick's cathedral, bow before the cardinal of New York and kiss his ring in an act symbolising Ireland's and the church's mutual regard for each other.

But the archdiocese of New York, which has long advocated an end to violence in Ireland, said it had nothing to do with the choice of a Grand Marshal and pointedly told the parade.

Cardinal Terence Cooke is widely rumoured to be planning to be

Conservatives surge ahead in Britain

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative Party Tuesday forged further ahead of the opposition in a popularity poll as her government cleared the way for a possible early election.

A public opinion poll published by London's Standard newspaper showed the ruling Conservatives with a 13 per cent lead over the Labour Party.

The Standard estimated this would translate into a landslide majority of at least 140 seats for Mrs. Thatcher in an election.

The poll showed support for the right-wing Conservatives edging up from 44 to 45 per cent in the last month, while the left-wing Labour Party slipped from 35 to 32 per cent.

The alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats, which sought to stake out the middle ground and shot to the top of the polls at the end of 1981, was back in third place with 21 per cent.

The Conservatives' high standing is unprecedented for a British government in the fourth year of office and has confounded critics who felt that record unemployment, now at 13.8 per cent of the workforce, would diminish its popularity.

Her personal popularity dipped slightly, with 39 per cent of people polled saying they were satisfied with her performance compared with 41 per cent a month ago.

Leading politicians, including Mr. Kohl and his SPD rival for the chancellorship, Hans-Jochen Vogel, have made little public comment on the court's deliberations.

Political sources say their parties are clearly concerned about the possible financial cost if the elections are cancelled.

The chancellor's Christian Democratic Party (CDU), for instance, has committed almost 30 million marks (\$12 million) to their election campaign.

"I can certainly say that we couldn't recoup much of our loss by the sale of endless reams of posters and leaflets as scrap paper," a CDU spokesman commented.

The only other way in which Mr. Kohl could keep his promise to hold early elections, if the court ruled against polls, would be to resign.

The chancellor has already expressed distaste for the idea. Moreover, his Free Democratic (FDP) coalition partners, facing possible disaster at the polls, might welcome a further 18-month delay in elections.

American Indian chiefs hear appeal by fugitive

NEDROW, New York (R) — The chiefs of North America's six Iroquois nations heard an appeal from fugitive Indian leader Dennis Banks Monday for sanctuary on their ancient lands to avoid his extradition to South Dakota.

Mr. Banks, 52, has been wanted in South Dakota since 1975 when he jumped bail after being convicted of riot and assault in a racial clash between whites and Indians two years earlier.

He based his plea on the claim of the Iroquois to sovereign nationhood outside federal and state jurisdiction under a 1794 treaty with the U.S. government. He argued that this made him immune from arrest on the Onondaga reservation in New York State.

Leon Shenandoah, grand sachem (grand chief) of the Iroquois

and chief of the Onondagas, one of the six nations, said the two-day meeting in a long house council ended without a decision.

He said the chiefs listened to Mr. Banks and would go home to consider his appeal.

Mr. Banks, a Chippewa and a founder of the militant American Indian Movement (AIM), arrived on the sprawling Onondaga reservation south of Syracuse early last month after new California Governor George Deukmejian said he would extradite him to South Dakota.

He had been allowed to stay in California by the previous governor, Edmond (Jerry) Brown, on the grounds that his life might be in danger if he were returned to South Dakota.

Troops patrol Dacca

DACCA (R) — Troops moved into Dacca Tuesday to prevent fresh violence erupting on the streets of the Bangladesh capital.

Students agitating against the martial law government set seven vehicles on fire and sporadic clashes with the police were reported from various parts of the city.

Unconfirmed reports also said the military authorities arrested an unspecified number of politicians Tuesday. Their names or

parties were not immediately available.

Though the situation in Dacca was very tense, people ignored a call by student organisations and backed by 15 political parties for a general strike in protest against martial law and a new education policy. Dacca University was closed indefinitely Monday after police-student clashes in which one person died and more than 100 were injured.

W. German parties nervously await court decision on March elections

BONN (R) — West Germany's constitutional court ends a week of mounting nervousness among political parties Wednesday when it rules on whether to allow planned March elections to go ahead.

Diplomats said that with the election campaign already in full swing and campaign posters lining the main streets of every town, cancellation would cause considerable embarrassment.

Edmund Stoiber, business manager of the Christian Social Union (CSU), one of three parties in the ruling centre-right coalition, said at the week-end there could be a "crisis of state" if this happened.

Most political commentators believe the Karlsruhe court will overrule objections that last December's dissolution of the Bundestag (lower house) by President Karl Carstens was unconstitutional.

Political sources say widespread speculation that the eight judges could reach only a close majority decision has sparked anger in the Karlsruhe court.

Monday, the court reversed an earlier decision and banned live

television coverage of the announcement. It also tightened up regulations for radio and press journalists.

If the eight judges divide equally, the objection, filed by four Bundestag deputies, will be rejected and the March 6 elections will go ahead.

Diplomats say a narrow margin would increase pressure to change the country's constitution, making it easier to dissolve parliament before the end of its four-year term.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl promised early elections after his centre-right coalition ousted Social Democrat (SPD) Chancellor Helmut Schmidt from office in a parliamentary vote last October.

Mr. Kohl had deliberately to lose a vote of confidence in the Bundestag, with most of his supporters abstaining, before he could ask President Karl Carstens to approve a dissolution.

The president, echoing widespread uneasiness about the unprecedented move, said he had great difficulty in making his decision.

Outspoken Irish Republican to marshal St. Patrick's Day parade

By Arthur Spiegelman

NEW YORK — New York's Saint Patrick's Day parade will be marshalled this year by an outspoken 80-year-old Irish Republican who believes violence is the only way to unite his mother country.

Michael Flannery, who in his time has fought with the Irish Republican Army (IRA), spent two years in an Irish prison and arranged for money to be sent to the IRA to buy weapons, was chosen as Grand Marshal of this year's parade — a ceremonial post bestowed by city Irish associations as a special honour.

The St. Patrick's Day parade, billed as the world's largest Irish celebration, when all New York becomes Irish for a day and even Fifth Avenue has a green stripe painted down the middle, always

has a nationalist flavour, featuring calls for England to leave Ireland.

But it has never before had an active, outspoken IRA supporter as Grand Marshal.

As a result of Mr. Flannery's selection, official Ireland is boycotting the March 17 parade and the Roman Catholic hierarchy is considering what to do.

Normally the Grand Marshal of the parade can expect to walk up the steps of St. Patrick's cathedral, bow before the cardinal of New York and kiss his ring in an act symbolising Ireland's and the church's mutual regard for each other.

But the archdiocese of New York, which has long advocated an end to violence in Ireland, said it had nothing to do with the choice of a Grand Marshal and pointedly told the parade.

Cardinal Terence Cooke is widely rumoured to be planning to be

out of town on March 17, but his spokesmen say no decision has yet been made.

'A silly decision'

None of this bothers Mr. Flannery. "It was a silly decision on the Irish government's part. Possibly the church's response is a rebuff. If the cardinal doesn't show, a bishop will," he said.

Mr. Flannery has long been an Irish activist in New York, ever since, he says, the IRA sent him over in 1927 to line up American supporters.

He was a soldier at the time of the "troubles" that preceded the setting up of the Irish free state in 1921 and again in the civil war that followed independence for 26 of Ireland's 32 counties.

He asserts that Ireland's "prominent people" betrayed the country by forcing it to accept par-

trition.

Arrested in bed

After the free state was created, he continued to fight and was arrested for it, serving two years, 1922-24, in a military prison. "I hate to say it, but I was arrested while I slept in my bed."

Mr. Flannery said that he was no longer in the IRA because "once you go to jail, you cease to be a member. Anyway I'm now 80 years old and too old for the IRA."

Last November he was charged with conspiring to buy arms for the IRA, and admitted in court to giving an intermediary \$7,000 to buy weapons.

But Mr. Flannery and four others were acquitted because the jury accepted a defence claim that an arms dealer involved in the case had a Central Intelligence Agency

(CIA) connection, meaning the U.S. government approved of the transaction.

Mr. Flannery is also the founder and head of the Irish Northern Aid Committee (Noraid), which the U.S., British and Irish governments say is a front for the IRA.

He said the money collected for Noraid went only to help the families of political prisoners. But he acknowledged in an interview that he also accepted donations for direct aid to the IRA because he knew how to get the money to it.

Michael Flannery believes and says openly that violence is the only way to create a United Ireland, the only way to drive the British out of Northern Ireland.

"It's been that way for 60 years," he says. "It's been that way for 800 years. I am a pacifist everywhere but Ireland."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Veteran Soviet diplomat dies at 74

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union announced Tuesday the death of veteran diplomat Nikolai Firuybin at the age of 74. Mr. Firuybin was a deputy foreign minister from 1957 until his death and for many years was responsible for South East Asian affairs. He was married to Soviet Culture Minister Yekaterina Furtseva, who died in 1974.

Women protesters raid British base

NEWBURY, London (R) — Nearly 60 women campaigners against nuclear weapons penetrated an air base Tuesday in a renewed protest over the planned siting of U.S. cruise missiles there later this year. They scaled a three metres-high perimeter fence at the Greenham Common base and some of them danced on the concrete bunkers due to house the missiles.

The French want Barbie trial televised

PARIS (R) — Some 70 per cent of French people would like to see former Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie's trial televised live, according to an opinion poll released Tuesday. Justice Minister Robert Badinter said his ministry was considering the idea but it would require a change in the law.

Bulgaria to detain wanted Turk

ANKARA (R) — Bulgaria will not allow Bekir Celenk, a Turk wanted by Italian police in connection with the attempted assassination of Pope John Paul II in May 1981, to leave the country while extradition requests are pending. Turkish Foreign Minister Tiller Turkmen said. He told a news conference that Bulgaria had given this assurance to the Turkish government. Turkey has twice asked Bulgaria to extradite Mr. Celenk, also wanted in Turkey on charges of smuggling and illegal currency deals.

Would-be-rapist easily tracked

BANGKOK (R) — A man missing part of his tongue has been arrested and charged with the attempted rape of a Bangkok waitress, police said. The waitress bit off the tip of her attacker's tongue on Saturday and he fled in pain. She gave the piece of tongue to police, who kept it in a bottle and confronted the suspect with it. Earlier this month a nurse bit off part of the tongue of a man who tried to steal a kiss. She also turned in the piece of tongue to police here but it has not been claimed.

Distraught woman disrupts wedding

GLASGOW, Scotland (R) — The bride and groom were red-faced and the congregation was stunned when a woman stood up during their wedding ceremony and shouted: "He should be marrying me." The distraught woman, name unknown, was quickly ushered out of Shawlands old parish church. Her outburst came during the wedding of James Miller, a Church of Scotland minister, and Kathleen Grant, deputy headmistress of a local school. The Rev. John MacDonald, who performed the ceremony, said: "The woman was a former parishioner of Mr. Miller and had turned to him for help during personal troubles."

Warsaw 'sex shop' turns out to be hoax

WARSAW (R) — Stamping the snow off their boots, about 200 people turned up Tuesday for the publicised opening of Poland's first sex shop — only to find it was a hoax. The crowd gathered outside a shop in a central Warsaw street after the weekly consumer magazine Veto ran a story saying a sex shop would open there. It listed imported appliances and garments not normally available for the hot-blooded Polish male. But instead of the advertised "intimate articles" and pornographic magazines they found a second-hand clothes shop. The Veto story turned out to be an advertising stunt for the magazine and the shop.

Handwritten signature or mark.